OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE

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VILLAGERS VOW TO FIGHT LAND SALE

ANGRY villagers are planning to fight the sale of land used as a playing field by registering it as a village green.

Residents from Morda turned out in force to the Oswestry Rural Parish Council meeting on Tuesday night to demand the return of the field, by Glentworth Avenue, which Shropshire Council auctioned off to a mystery buyer on Monday for £33,000.

And in defiance of Shropshire Council, parish councillors voted unanimously to try to register the land as a village green, preventing any future building on it.

But with the land already sold at auction, the parish council only has a short "grace period" to stop potential developers moving in. Local resident Donald Dawson said: "£30,000 will only pay one county councillor's allowance for a year whilst an open space for children to play safely in relative proximity to their home will give a lifetime of benefit. Remember the supposed Olympic legacy.

"Selling such assets as part of some fire sale to cope with current funding difficulties should only be a last resort."

Peter Richardson, who helped collect a petition of 200 signatures presented at the meeting, said: "It's our only chance to get a safe play area and community field for Morda."

The field, used by children as a playing area and football pitch for more than 30 years, was sold off at a London auction for £33,000 by property consultants Lambert Smith Hampton on behalf of Shropshire Council.

Disgust

John Abram, Glentworth Avenue resident and former High Sheriff of Shropshire, described the move as "an ill-conceived and mismanaged land grab of a much used public open space.

"It's in the middle of a housing estate down Morda Road. It has been a public open space for more than 30 years. But Shropshire Council in their desperation to sell off all the best silver has sold it," he said.

Parish council chairman Phil May said he will let Shropshire Council know the parishioners' "disgust" at the way the process has been handled.

Councillor Paul Milner said: "They're scraping the bottom of the barrel to find pennies. It's there for a reason and it's there to be fought for. We should do everything we can to stop it going through."

To class the field by Glentworth Avenue as a village green, the parish council needs evidence of the land being used without permission for at least 20 years. Those with old pictures of the field being used are asked to send them to parish council clerk Val Smout at **valsmout@tiscali.co.uk**

by Josh Boswell

Killer in an appeal against sentence

A TEENAGER who was convicted of killing a father-of-one earlier this year has lodged an appeal against his sentence.

Richard Adam Reece, 19, formerly of Lord Street, Oswestry, was jailed for 12 years last month after being found guilty of the manslaughter of 21-year-old Danny Jones, from Chirk.

But Reece's solicitors have now lodged an appeal over the length of his sentence with the Court of Appeal in London.

Although no date has been set for the hearing, it is expected to take place in the new year.

Mr Jones died after Reece stabbed him with a replica Lord of the Rings sword during a fight in a car park off Oak Street, Oswestry, in April.

Reece was convicted of manslaughter following a two-and-a-half week trial at Birmingham Crown Court in October and November.

He had faced a charge of murder, but the jury acquitted him of that.

Judge Melbourne Inman QC sentenced him to 12 years in prison, telling him he would have to serve six years before being considered for release on licence.

The sentencing took place on November 6 and Reece had until December 4 to lodge any appeal.

Help to pick the winners

INSIDE today's *Chronicle* readers get the chance to vote for their favourite Christmas window and market stall.

Turn to pages 8 and 9 to see the entries to this year's competition organised by Oswestry Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with your *Chronicle* and cut out and return the voting coupon to our office at 14 Salop Road, Oswestry. Alternatively you can e-mail your choices to **news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk**

Winners in both sections will receive trophies.

Boy, 3, dies after falling into a pond

A THREE-year-old boy who died after being found in a neighbour's garden pond in Froncysyllte has been named locally as Harvey-Lee Williams.

It is thought the youngster wandered away from his mum while she was packing boxes into a car to move house.

Police were alerted that Harvey-Lee was missing shortly before noon on Monday.

When officers arrived at the family home in Pleasant View, Froncysyllte, near Llangollen, they discovered the boy in a nearby pond. He was taken to Wrexham Maelor hospital but later died.

Neighbour Geoff Jones, 65, said: "I saw him just an hour or two before he was reported missing and he was as playful as ever with family dog in the garden.

"It really chokes you up, the loss of a young child is appalling."

According to reports, the boy's mum Amy Dipper was moving house with her partner at the time when Harvey-Lee wandered off.

A spokesman for North Wales Police said: "This is a tragic incident about a young boy who has died and we are working with the family to support them. Officers continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding his sad passing."

A post mortem examination was carried out at Alder Hay Children's Hospital in Liverpool yesterday (Wednesday).

Big toy swap was a gift

The Rev Russell Howes and Tom Pawley at the toy swap. *Picture: Mark Booth.*

FAMILIES hunting for stocking fillers for their children for Christmas have been taking part in a toy swap in Oswestry.

The event saw parents bring in bags of toys and gifts their children had outgrown to exchange.

The toy swap, held at Albert Road Church in Oswestry, was organised by Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing as a way of saving money.

Toys, children's DVDs, craft items, clothes and books were all swapped.

Staff from Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing served festive refreshments to visitors and offered free gift wrapping of any items which were exchanged during the day, as well as being available to offer advice on housing, finance and tenancy.

Sue Adams, managing director for Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing, said: "We understand Christmas can put a lot of financial pressure on parents and carers, especially those on a tight budget.

"We want to support families to help reduce the burden, and our community toy swap events are a great opportunity to help save families money."

Lauren Woods, Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing involvement and empowerment officer, said they had been pleased with how the event had gone.

Teenagers in court on drugs charges

THREE teenagers have appeared in court charged with supplying Class A and B drugs in Mid Wales.

Ashley-Joe Pedrini, Sam Williams and Huw Glyn Jones appeared at Welshpool Magistrates Court on Tuesday, where their case was adjourned to crown court.

Jones, 19, of Orchard Green, Llanymynech, denied a charge of being concerned with the supply of cannabis between August 31 2012 and December 12 2012 and also denied a charge of being in possession of 9.77g of cannabis on December 29 2012 with intent to supply.

Pedrini, 18, of High Street, Welshpool, indicated he would enter a guilty plea to a charge of being concerned with the supply of cannabis between August 31 and December 29 last year and a charge of possessing 9.72g of cannabis with intent to supply.

Williams, 19, of Gungrog Hill, Welshpool, indicated he would enter a guilty plea to a charge of being concerned with the supply of Class A cocaine between August 31 and December 29 last year and a charge of being concerned with the supply of cannabis.

Magistrates adjourned the case to Mold Crown Court on December 20.

Pedrini and Jones were given conditional bail and Williams unconditional bail.

Claim place in marathon

ORGANISERS of Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital's Bone Cancer Centre Appeal are looking for marathon runners.

It has 10 places left for entry to the 2014 Virgin London Marathon, on April 13.

Fund organiser Gwilym Owen has appealed for runners to claim the remaining places.

"All you have to do is raise a minimum of £1,500 for the cause and you are guaranteed a place," he said.

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Diane Edwards sells her handmade wreaths for Macmillan. *Pictures: Laura Dutfield.*

Billy Simms from Toasty Bonce at her stall at Welshpool Winter Festival.

Town turned into a winter wonderland for switch-on

Linda Corby of Montgomery WI displays some hand knitted items.

HUNDREDS of people got into the festive spirit for Welshpool's Christmas fair and lights switch-on.

Welshpool was turned into a winter wonderland for the weekend of events, which featured stalls, live music, entertainment and fun.

Councillor John Meredith, town mayor, said the event was one of the best yet, with people from far and wide coming to enjoy the action.

He said: "It was truly a marvellous weekend for Welshpool and all the residents. Friday night had the fancy dress, the parade and lights switch on as well as a visit from Father Christmas and I don't think I have ever seen so many happy children in the town, it was a magical evening.

by Andrew Morris

"Then on Saturday, the streets came alive with stalls selling all sorts of goods and we had live entertainment and all sorts going on.

"I was out and about for most of the day and can say the streets were packed from 9am until the end of the day at 5pm.

"I think the event must have got everybody in the town into the festive spirit and ready now for the big day.

"It was certainly one of the best events we have had and I am sure everyone enjoyed themselves."

Meanwhile, a festive fair will be held in the Corn Exchange of Welshpool Town Hall on December 20 in aid of the New Year Party for the town's senior citizens.

Coffee, tea and mince pies will be served and there will also be a number of festive stalls, tombola, raffle and other attractions.

The seniors' party will take place on January 28 and tickets are now available from Welshpool Jewellers and Flaunt It the card & gift shop in Cumberland Place.

Nick Grinsell from Sunny View Landscapes with a selection of his Christmas trees at the festival.

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Leader names new cabinet after a week of turbulence

David Jones

by Andrew Morris

THE leader of Powys County Council has named his new cabinet following a week of turbulence at County Hall.

Councillor David Jones sacked three cabinet members last week and joined the Powys Independent Alliance as the council prepares to plug a £40 million financial black hole over the coming three years.

Councillor Jones, who has been the leader since May 2012, has now revealed the make-up of the new cabinet, which he says has the ability to guide the council through the "serious decisions" it is facing.

He said: "I am delighted to confirm the membership of the new cabinet, which I am confident has the ability and determination to tackle the very serious financial situation the council faces."

Councillor Jones remains the leader, with Powys Independent Alliance leader Tony Thomas as his deputy.

The new cabinet members and their areas of responsibility are: David Jones, leader; Tony Thomas, deputy leader, finance & value; Dawn Bailey, care; Stephen Hayes, commissioning & procurement; Geraint Hopkins, environment; Wynne Jones, learning; David Price, regeneration; Gareth Ratcliffe, corporate delivery; Kath Roberts-Jones, property, housing and welfare; and Avril York, leisure and culture.

The cabinet contains five members based in Montgomeryshire and five from Brecknockshire, but none from Radnorshire.

Last week councillors Myfanwy Alexander, Graham Brown and Garry Banks were sacked.

Councillor Jones said the sackings were to allow the council to work through the financial restraints it was facing.

He said: "Powys is facing unprecedented financial challenges with a projected £40 million shortfall over the next three financial years and the council needs greater stability than ever before to deliver the transformational changes demanded.

"We have to set aside any differences and work for the benefit of our communities. By co-operating with each other we can create a legacy that we can be proud of and not just oversee a series of cuts that hit our communities.

"We will be judged by the services we leave not those we take away, there will be difficult decisions but we have to face them.

"My decision to change the cabinet was not taken lightly. My colleagues have worked tirelessly for the council and I am grateful for their contributions."

Marquee fundraiser brings in £8,500

A COUPLE who donated their wedding marquee as a venue for a charity lunch raised £8,500 for charity.

Dorian Lloyd and Michelle Rowles, both 30, were married on September 8 in Llanfechain.

The following day their friend Dawn Pickstock, 44, organised a charity lunch in the marquee and put on a meal for 200 guests.

Dawn also organised a raffle draw, an auction, heads and tails, and sold the wedding flowers on the tables to raise as much money as possible for her three chosen charities – Oswestry Bone Cancer Centre Appeal, Midland Air Ambulance and Llanfechain School.

She said: "I saw two good, local charities and wanted to support them. We also decided to support Llanfechain School as the married couple, Dorian and Michelle, have relations there and my daughter, who was a bridesmaid at the wedding, goes there."

The money donated to the school will be used to buy four iPads to update its computer technology.

Gwilym Owen OBE, appeal director for the Oswestry Bone Cancer Centre Appeal, said: "The Bone Cancer Centre Appeal is extremely grateful for their support and the £3,500 which we have received."

Fire station is saved from axe

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save Montgomery's threatened fire station were celebrating this week after plans to close it were dropped.

Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Authority had planned to close the station to save cash. But the authority has dropped the plan and confirmed Montgomery will remain open.

Terminally ill man caught with heroin

A MAN with terminal cancer was found in possession of £750 worth of heroin following a police drugs raid.

Alistair Wyndham Jeffries, 33, was told by doctors he had only 11 months to live after being diagnosed with brain cancer.

When police carried out a search warrant at his home they found heroin and cannabis, and drug paraphernalia.

Jeffries, of Llwyn y Rhedyn, Llanfyllin, admitted possessing 7.54g of diamorphine, a Class A drug otherwise known as heroin, and 2.26g of cannabis, a Class B drug, on September 7 when he appeared at Welshpool Magistrates Court on Tuesday.

After hearing that Jeffries has the terminal illness, magistrates fined him £50 on each charge and also ordered him to pay £85 costs and a £20 victim surcharge.

Mr Owain Jones, for Jeffries, told the bench that because of his illness, a conditional discharge or financial penalty were the only options possible.

Mrs Helen Tench, prosecuting, said police searched the defendant's home on September 7. She said: "The defendant and his partner were in bed and the officers found foil, with a burned brown substance and plastic bags, along with a heroin and a pipe, scales and cannabis. The heroin had a street value of £750 and the cannabis £10.

Mr Jones said: "My client has terminal cancer of the brain. He was diagnosed and was given 11 months to live."

Free beer in health campaign

Kirsty Casewell from Walford and North Shropshire College in Oswestry takes part in the Health Promotion Day organised by the students. *Picture: Laura Dutfield.*

TEENAGERS in Oswestry were offered free beer and wine at college – but the non-alcoholic variety.

The health promotion day at Walford and North Shropshire College in Oswestry took place last Friday and gave students and visitors the chance to try healthy alternatives to traditional Christmas tipples.

During the two-hour event the college opened its doors for people to find out more about a wide range of health-related topics and take part in activities planned by students on the Access to Higher Education Health course.

Many visitors enjoyed trying out the stress relief techniques on offer while they tasted a range of non-alcoholic cocktails and beers served up by the students.

And more energetic visitors combined exercise with healthy snacks by pedalling an exercise bike to power a smoothie maker.

The students arranged information stalls on blood donation, drugs awareness, sexual health, quitting smoking, healthy eating and mental health around the college foyer for the event, and chatted to other students and visitors about the subjects and about their course.

Jill Cawthray, lecturer and course leader, said: "The health promotion event is part of the Access to HE Health course and all students on the course were involved in the planning and preparation.

"The students were running the show. They did a really good job and everyone who came seemed to enjoy themselves."

NEWS in brief

School is backing life-saver appeal

AN OSWESTRY school has backed The Chronicle's "Keeping Oswestry Alive" campaign.

Pupils at The Meadows Primary School were wearing their Christmas jumpers in school today with each pupil donating £1 to the appeal.

Earlier this year Ethan Lee-Birch, a pupil in Year 6, raised more than £300 for the fund by completing a sponsored swim.

In association with the British Heart Foundation (BHF) and the West Midland Ambulance Service the *Chronicle* is appealing for help from everyone.

The target is to set up a network of life-saving defibrillators in Oswestry.

Donations can be made at The Principality Building Society (account: 144649-05) or the *Chronicle* office.

Join Santa as he cruises on canal

FATHER Christmas will be taking to the water this weekend for a cruise along the Montgomery Canal at Llanymynech.

The Santa Cruises will take place over the next two weekends when up to 12 people can book seats on each cruise at £6.50 per person.

Boats leave the visitor centre at Llanymynech Wharf at 1.30pm, 2.15pm, 3pm and 3.45pm. All children will get a present from Santa. To book call (01691) 830506.

Offer deadline on music venue

A CAMPAIGN group set up to save an under-threat Oswestry music venue has been given six months to find the cash it needs to buy the building.

The Save the Ironworks group, headed by Ironworks owner Steve Gore, has been told it has until May 14 next year to put in a bid for The Ironworks in Oswestry.

www.morgans-of-oswestry.co.uk

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NEWS 01691 668094

War memorial plaques at park to be replaced

STRIKING marble memorial plaques on park gates in Oswestry are set to be replaced ahead of events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War One.

by Pam Kingsley

The plaques, which are fixed either side of the main gates at Cae Glas Park in Oswestry, have become stained over the years, and despite attempts to clean them the town council has now decided to replace them.

Work on the plaques will cost just under £22,500 and is expected to be completed by July.

Members of Oswestry Town Council agreed to go ahead with the work at a special meeting on Monday.

The first plaque was installed at the site more than 90 years ago and both list the names of hundreds of people from the area who died in two world wars.

Councillor Martin Bennett, said: "There is some opinion that the staining is coming from the back to the front and is being caused by water that's getting into the memorial from the top and is affecting the fastenings by which the marble plaques are being held in place, which is why repeated cleanings have not dealt with the problem.

"We have looked at the memorial on a significant number of occasions and we've probably been to just about every supplier of a solution that we could possibly find. I think on this occasion we really need to do a thorough job and hopefully do it once and not to repeat it every so often with another attempt.

"I admit that it is a bit drastic in replacing the plaques, but we have done little cleaning jobs often and they've probably cost us more than we would have liked to have spent and haven't done the job."

The original memorial was paid for by public subscription and was commemorated on December 31 1921. Matching plaques were added shortly after the end of World War Two.

Both memorials are Italian marble, the replacements will be the same.

Work will be carried out by the War Memorial Restoration Company.

Zip wire challenge for bears

Brian Rotherer at St Oswald's Church, Oswestry, ahead of the teddy bear zip wire event on Boxing Day. *Picture: Laura Dutfield.*

TEDDY bears will have the chance to fly through the air with a special ride this Christmas – to raise funds for the refurbishment of church bells.

St Oswald's Church in Church Street, Oswestry, will host a teddy bear zip wire event which will see people make a donation to see their favourite cuddly toy sail down the 212ft church tower.

The church is currently raising £5,000 to help carry out essential maintenance on the bells and said it hoped the event would go some way to getting the fundraising under way.

Brian Rotherer, church spokesman, said: "We are planning to hold a teddy bear zip wire event on Boxing Day at the church all day.

"It will be great fun seeing your teddy have the ride of its life as it comes down the church tower and people can also pay a small donation to come on to the top of the church tower to see the marvellous view over the town."

Students get chance to quiz a life peer

SHROPSHIRE Conservative life peer Lord Hodgson has visited pupils in Oswestry to talk about the role of the upper chamber in British politics.

Lord Hodgson explained to students at Oswestry School that the House of Lords' job was to scrutinise laws from the House of Commons.

The lord, whose official title is Baron Hodgson of Astley Abbotts, said: "I talked to the students about how Parliament works, what it's about and how it fits in."

Students also got to grill Lord Hodgson in a question and answer session during Friday's visit.

He said: "We talked about whether people should be forced to vote, and about assisted dying. They asked good questions."

Music society enjoys a social

OSWESTRY Recorded Music Society held its annual social evening at Christ Church Oswestry on Friday when 30 people enjoyed a buffet meal followed by musical entertainment by members of the Llansilin Mixed Choir.

The society is now taking a Christmas break and will resume on January 24.

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NEWS 01691 668094

Collection brings in typhoon cash aid

SHOPPERS in Oswestry have helped provide two aid packages which will be sent out to people suffering in the wake of typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

A collection was made by members of Borderland Rotary Club in the foyer of Sainsbury's in Oswestry, with money raised going towards the disaster fund.

Merrick Corfield, club president, said: "Thank you to all the people who generously donated to the appeal.

"A total of £1,180 was collected by members and will be used to supply two shelter boxes for the suffering people of the Philippines.

"Two more will be funded by the Borderland Rotary Club, making four boxes provided by the people of Oswestry."

Pair open doors for church funds

ANTIQUE dealers Mel and Heather Parkes are inviting people to their 17th century home at Church Bank Welshpool on Sunday to raise funds for Trelystan Church restoration fund.

On hearing about the plight of the church needing money for major renovation work they decided to open the house, decorated for the festive season, from 12pm-5pm. Admission is £3.

Motorists target of drink-drive initiative

FIFTEEN people have been arrested and more than 200 breath tests were carried out by police during a weekend operation.

Dyfed-Powys Police carried out Operation Ohio across Powys in a bid to get its Christmas drink-drive campaign under way.

The force said it worked with colleagues from Gwent and Gloucestershire Police forces and saw a number of fixed penalty notices handed out for various offences.

Inspector Mark Davies, who commanded the operation, said he is committed to making the roads of Mid Wales safer for all law-abiding motorists.

He said: "Dyfed-Powys Police joined with two neighbouring forces this past weekend to conduct a cross border policing operation.

"Codenamed Operation Ohio, officers were given three key aims to reduce road casualties, disrupt criminality and patrol the roads.

"We had officers from our roads policing unit, response, the dogs section and the special constabulary take part in this weekend operation. They were joined by colleagues from Gwent and Gloucestershire in this operation which aims to strengthen our work along the borders of Powys.

"I am happy with the results, which show our cur

by Andrew Morris

commitment to making the roads within Dyfed-Powys safer for law abiding motorists. I'd like to offer my thanks to all officers and police staff who took part and made it a successful operation."

He added: "The operation which incorporated the Christmas drink drive campaign, saw 15 people arrested mainly for controlled drugs and positive breath tests. We saw 24 crimes committed, mainly for controlled drugs and 15 cannabis warnings were handed out.

"We gave out one penalty notice for disorder related to cannabis, while six vehicles were seized for various reasons. Nine traffic offence reports for failing to wear seatbelts or speeding were recorded and 42 fixed penalty notices were handed out for various reasons.

"We also carried out 206 breath tests and five of these were positive. Finally, 98 vehicles were searched."

Shop reveals wonder wall

Staff members Mark Andrews, Meriel Turner, Carol Simms and Steve Roberts. *Picture: Laura Dutfield.*

A "LIVING wall" of evergreen plants and snowdrops – the first of its kind in Shropshire – has been installed outside an Oswestry supermarket.

Marks & Spencer, in Smithfield Road, has transformed its building into a haven for bees and butterflies.

Dylan Bellamy, foods manager at the store, said: "It helps insulate the store. It also creates an environment for the birds. It's evergreen, but in the summer you'll see flowers coming through. It looks absolutely fantastic. We harvest rainwater to irrigate the living wall. We've got a tank that collects the rainwater and the pump then pumps it through the system."

Neil Tuxford, project manager at Emerson Climate Technology, which built the wall, said: "It's bee-friendly. There's a weave that goes through it."

The wall completes a two-stage programme to reduce the energy use at the shop.

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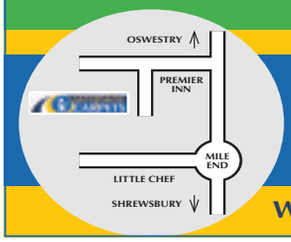

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FEATURES AND COMMENT

01691 668094

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

IT'S not often we can report that common sense has prevailed but news that Montgomery Fire Station will stay open is a real victory.

The station was earmarked for closure by Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Authority as part of a cost cutting exercise.

But welcome news broke this week that the authority had performed a welcome u-turn with the station at Knighton also surviving threatened closure.

The retained firefighters at Montgomery cover a huge area and the thought that already stretched stations from Newtown and Welshpool would be asked to provide the extra cover never really made sense.

But what worries me is that now that the idea has been floated once there is no reason why in the future another suited bean counter may not come up with the same suggestion.

The people of Montgomery and the surrounding villages can't afford to rest on their laurels on this one.

Montgomery Fire Service provides a vital service. Its retained staff are dedicated and committed to saving and protecting life and property and we must never allow this service to disappear.

❑❑❑❑

AND while we're on the subject of campaigns the people of Morda are looking for help in their fight to retain a field which has been used as a playground by local youngsters for over 30 years.

Shropshire Council sold the plot of land alongside Glentworth Avenue by auction to a mystery buyer and now Oswestry Rural Parish Council are fighting to retain the land as a village green.

But they don't have long with only a small window of opportunity left to apply for village green status.

The parish council needs evidence of the land being used without permission for at least 20 years. Those with old pictures of the field being used are asked to send them to parish council clerk Val Smout at **valsmout@tiscali.co.uk**

It would be a travesty if yet another area of open space is lost.

❑❑❑❑

OSWESTRY and Welshpool people proved they know how to put on a party last weekend.

Thousands took to the streets of Oswestry on Friday and Saturday for the annual Christmas Music Live and Winter Parade events and in Welshpool the town was packed for the lights switch-on and Winter Festival.

It was really great to see so many people out enjoying themselves and let's hope the traders from both towns enjoyed the benefits of seeing the streets packed with people.

Pipes and soundboards have been taken out of the organ.

At the beginning of restoration work on the historic organ at St Oswald's Church are David Roskelly and Kevin Davies. *Pictures: Peter Flemmich.*

Work starts to restore historic church organ

PAM KINGSLEY reports on the start of work to restore the historic organ in St Oswald's Church in Oswestry

ITS sounds have filled an Oswestry church for generations.

But time takes its toll, and after 138 years the organ of St Oswald's Church in Oswestry was beginning to show its age.

It had burst leathers, failing blowers and entire sections of pipes that were no longer working.

Indeed, organist Veronic Donkin found herself wondering what might go wrong each time she played it.

But this week, after a six-year, £120,000 fundraising campaign, work began to dismantle the instrument so that it can be refurbished.

And with thousands of individual parts to remove, clean, and put back in place, Mrs Donkin said the work is expected to take about four months to complete.

"We're hoping that it will be back in time for Easter as Easter is late next year," she said.

"We haven't got the money for every part to be done, but we're getting the heart done and that should mean that it can give us another 100 years of service."

A fundraising campaign was launched in 2007 and now enough has been brought in to cover the cost of the major repairs, which should greatly improve the sound and performance of the instrument.

Mrs Donkin said it would take a further £30,000 to carry out repairs on everything that needed work. The organ was built in 1875 before being enlarged in 1911 as it wasn't large enough for its sound to fill the church. It was restored in 1954 and was cleaned in 1984.

But nearly 30 years later the organ is once again in need of attention.

"The pipes are very very dirty so the organ should sound a lot brighter and recover some of its original sound once they've been cleaned," Mrs Donkin said.

The organ will now be taken to Nicholson's, a specialist organ builder and repairer in Malvern.

The company has previously repaired and renovated organs for Llandaff Cathedral, Hereford Cathedral, St Peter's College in Oxford and Sofia Church in Stockholm.

A spokesman for Nicholson said: "We begin by researching the history of an instrument – a story revealed by both extant documentation and by what the inside of the organ shows us. Depending on the state of the components, the rebuilding of an organ is often extensive."

While the repairs are being carried out, Nicholson's is lending the church a manual organ.

Mrs Donkin said: "Inside the organ there are a variety of different sounds produced by pipes of different shapes, sizes and materials.

"Each of these pipes is under the control of a white knob on the console called a stop.

"For each stop there is a pneumatic motor which pulls a slider into position. There are in the region of 1,000 of these motors inside the organ.

"More and more frequently now the sheepskin or leather of the tiny bellows on these motors decay or burst, and when this happens there is no sound from the affected pipe or pipes.

"This made a mammoth task for Brian Jones, our organ tuner, who replaces between eight to 10 leathers at each tuning visit.

"It is no exaggeration to say that without Brian's constant and loving attention over the years the fine Hill organ at St Oswald's would now be unplayable.

"Grateful as we are to Brian for the care which he gives, we cannot, and indeed should not, rely on such charitable endeavours.

"The organ now needs a thorough overhaul and rebuild to maintain it through the 21st century."

Choir director Mike Donkin said: "It is thanks to the huge expertise of our organists that they managed to cope with the problems of leathers bursting and blowers failing without the majority of people knowing that anything was wrong. Failures were more and more frequent, and without a full restoration we would inevitably have ended up with an unworkable instrument."

Kevin Davies at work on the organ.

CHART TOPPERS RAY SPILLER

Over fifty years ago The Music Charts started and this column will look back at the charts this week, four,14, 24, 34 and 44 years ago

FOUR YEARS AGO . . . 2009

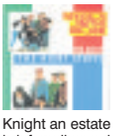
The Official BBC Children in Need Medley was a single by Peter Kay's Animated All Star Band. It topped the chart for two weeks. The cover art is a parody of the cover of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band by The Beatles. The single has sold more than 400,000 copies in the UK, earning it Gold status from the BPI.

FOURTEEN YEARS AGO . . .1999

Cliff Richard has long maintained the importance of having a number one record at Christmas time. In 1999 his single The Millennium Prayer held the top spot three weeks. This was Cliff's 14th number one single in a career that started in 1958. Cliff is the only individual to have had number one hits in the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s.

TWENTY FOUR YEARS AGO . . .1989

At the time, New Kids On The Block were the highest earning boy band of all time. They became the first group to score eight UK top 10 hits in a year. The first of their two number ones held the top spot for three weeks – You Got It (The Right Stuff). Their success didn't last long though, and in 1994 the group split up. Danny Wood became a producer, Jonathan Knight an estate agent – the others had a brief spell as solo performers. Now the band has reformed and they have started touring again with the Backstreet Boys.

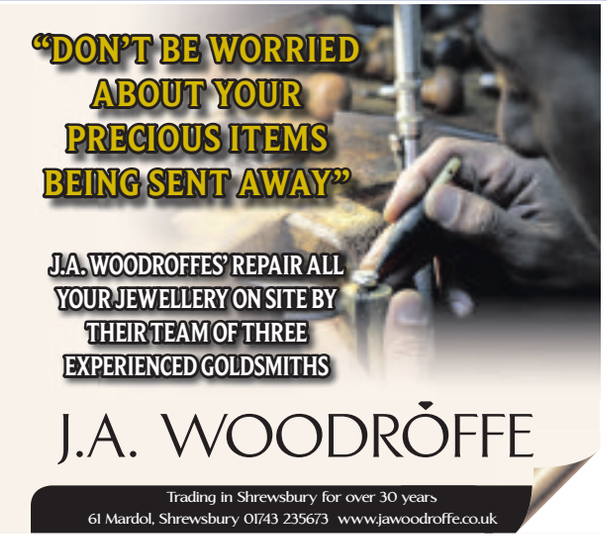


THIRTY FOUR YEARS AGO . . . 1979

Dr. Hook had six singles in the UK top 10. One of them was When You're In Love With A Beautiful Woman, which held the top spot for three weeks. The band started out as Dr. Hook and the Medicine Show but in 1973 they went bankrupt. They later reformed as Dr. Hook.

FORTY FOUR YEARS AGO . . . 1969

The best-selling single of 1969 came from The Archies with Sugar Sugar, which held the top spot for eight weeks. Only two other singles in that decade held the top spot for as many weeks. It was the Rolf Harris track, Two Little Boys, which prevented The Archies from having a ninth week at number one. It to the top in the USA charts.



LETTERS

01691 668094

Thanks to people for Aids Day support

ON behalf of HIV and sexual health charity Terrence Higgins Trust, I would like to say a huge thank you to the people of Shropshire and Telford for helping to raise awareness of HIV and funds to support those living with the condition on this year's World Aids Day (Sunday, December 1).

Lots of local people generously supported our fundraisers and information drives at Sainsbury's in Shrewsbury and in Telford town centre. And we're looking forward to meeting even more people in Ludlow town centre on Saturday 7th December.

As we take a moment to reflect on the impact HIV has had over the years, we are delighted to meet local people, challenge myths that still persist around the condition and get the community talking about HIV.

World Aids Day comes once a year, but the effort to raise awareness of HIV never stops.

If you didn't get to join us at a local event, why not take a moment to read our "Ask Me About HIV" fact sheet at the website **www.tht.org.uk/askme** and share the facts with friends, family or colleagues.

LOTTE HAKEMAN
Terrence Higgins Trust

Youngsters are just not interested

IT APPEARS youngsters with website design skills gleaned from the college in Oswestry or from universities elsewhere are not interested in an opportunity to be part of a new business in the very lucrative billion dollars a year information products niche about making money online.

I am a writer and offline marketer who wants to set up a new internet business in 2014 with the target of a six figure income by the end of that year.

But in order to achieve my business plan I need the services of someone who is up to the challenge of designing, creating and running internet websites. I have been in touch with the college in Oswestry and did receive a call from a graduate.

I arranged an appointment with him for an informal chat but he e-mailed me to say he was "too busy".

Advertisements

I have placed advertisements in the Sainsbury's, Morrison and Wilkinson stores in the town for the last two weeks but am still waiting for a reply.

I have bought a large number of DVDs which will be sold singly and in sets, and have the necessary licences to sell them worldwide.

All of them feature internet marketing millionaires sharing the secrets of their success online.

Anyone interested, male or female, and of any age, will not have to pay anything to have the challenge of a lifetime.

Many of the internet millionaires now run their businesses on autopilot with residual income every year.

I am hoping someone with a desire to make something of their life will see this letter, realise this opportunity could be the best ever Christmas present, and contact me on (01691) 654520 or 07989 835638 any evening.

MALCOLM HARDING
Oswestry

YOUR guess is as good as ours when it comes to putting a date on this postcard view of Shrewsbury Road, Gobowen, near Oswestry. Note the shop on the far right. It looks as if the photograph may have been taken immediately before the Second World War. The picture comes from our regular contributor Ray Farlow.

Remember those who cope with disability

AS we relax with our families to enjoy the festive season, it's easy sometimes to forget what Christmas is supposed to be all about – thinking of others.

I'd like to ask your readers to spare a thought for those who are unable to take such simple pleasures for granted.

There are millions of people in the UK struggling to cope with disability; they may be disabled themselves and confined to a wheelchair, or caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia.

It is a sad fact that, even in this day and age, people with disabilities and carers remain among the most disenfranchised and vulnerable members of society.

This Christmas, I'd like to offer your readers the opportunity to help us change that.

I work for a wonderful charity called Vitalise. We provide desperately-needed respite breaks for people with disabilities and carers at our three centres around the UK.

So this Christmas and New Year, why not resolve to make a real difference to someone else's life?

There are so many ways you can help, from making a donation to taking part in a fundraising event or sparing some time to volunteer at one of our centres. If you would like to support us, please call 0303 303 0147 or visit **www.vitalise.org.uk**

COLIN BROOK
Vitalise

Concern at backing for pay-day loans

I SERIOUSLY doubt the integrity of politicians in Westminster. My point is about tackling excessive rates of interest charged by pay-day loans companies, and over charging of business customers by state owned RBS.

When the present Conservative Government first came to power, one of the first bills they brought before Parliament was to grant licences for pay-day loan companies from the US to operate in the UK.

This passed through Parliament with little opposition from Labour and the Lib Dems.

Apparently MPs from all parties have had in-trays full off correspondence from viable small businesses complaining about excessive charges placed upon them by RBS.

MARK NORWOOD
Oswestry

Welfare of animals is of concern

CHRISTMAS is often thought of as a time of "good will to all" and "peace on Earth". But for the millions of turkeys killed for our Christmas dinners it is anything but a time of peace.

Often raised in filthy, crowded conditions and then slaughtered at just a few months old, life for Britain's turkeys is miserable. And that's not to mention the geese, pigs and other animals killed for the feast.

But there are a wealth of delicious, meat-free alternatives, so why not spare an animal's life this Christmas and try something cruelty-free? You can order Animal Aid's free booklet "Compassionate Christmas" on (01732) 364546 or by e-mailing **info@animalaid.org.uk**

BEN MARTIN
Animal Aid

LETTERS to the Editor

POST Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU

FAX 01952 254605

E-MAIL letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Britain can't afford to be in EU anymore

DAVID Cameron must think the British people are stupid. He now says he is going to alter benefit payments to immigrants. There must be an election looming.

He tells us we need immigrants to work here, when we have 2.49 million unemployed.

He also says immigrants come here to work and not claim benefits. Simple: Don't pay them benefits. It is not that simple though. As long as we are a member of the EU, immigrants have as much right to be here as you and I. It is the EU that states we have to pay benefits to immigrants.

We do not have the infrastructure to accommodate the people here already. In January there could be tens of thousands of Bulgarians and Romanians heading to our shores.

To save Britain nearly £400 million per week and cut the number of people flooding our island, we must leave the EU.

R ROWLAND, Ellesmere

Research needed to ease pain

AS thoughts turn to shopping for gifts and decorating the tree, I ask your readers to consider the 250,000 men, women and children in the UK who may not be well enough to enjoy such things this Christmas.

Living with the chronic condition known as myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS) means that they experience disabling pain as well as unrelenting fatigue, cognitive problems and digestive difficulties.

Considerably more research into the condition is needed – just one of Action for ME's key priorities, along with ensuring that people affected by ME/CFS can access the information and support they need at **www.actionforme.org.uk**

SONYA CHOWDHURY
Action for ME

NHS parking complicated

I DO not object to the increased parking charges. Many hospitals charge more and the NHS does not exist to provide free car parking.

What I do object to is the total idiocy of the expensive, elaborate, time-wasting and stupid system for collecting the charges.

No one locally could have devised such a stupid system.

The Darwin Centre car park and the Telford centre car parks, among many others, have a far simpler system with ticket issue on arrival, which requires no cameras, the entry of registration numbers or complex and expensive electronics.

HUGH BATTERSBY
Ellesmere

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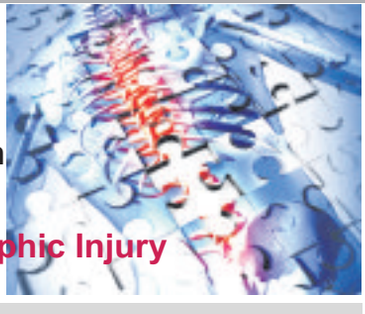
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HOW CAN I PROTECT MY LOAN FOR MUM'S BUNGALOW IF SALE IS FORCED TO PAY HER CARE COSTS?
Q: My parents moved to Spain when they retired six years ago. They put everything they had into a villa there but now dad has died and mum wants to move back to the UK. Unfortunately the villa is now only worth a fraction of what they paid for it and I will need to put up money to help mum buy a bungalow over here. If anything happened that resulted in her needing to go into care and the authorities demanded that the property be sold to pay the fees, how can I ensure I would get my money back?
A: Getting legal advice and proper documentation drawn up to formalise what is essentially just a family arrangement is crucial. Without such documentation it would be very difficult to prove that you owned any share or had any interest in your mother's property. Even if you argued that you had made a gift or unsecured loan to your mother you would need to prove that you had actually acquired a share in the property.
You and your mother should make a Declaration of Trust, sometimes referred to a Trust Deed or Agreement, setting out the extent of your interest in the property. This document is used to state the purpose of the Trust, who has created it and the names of the Trustees. It should include details of how the benefits of the Trust should be distributed and names of the beneficiaries. It should also name a replacement Trustee, should one become necessary, and state the level of authority the Trustee(s) will have.
Some Trusts are revocable, allowing the grantor to change their mind about the provisions contained within. Others, once signed and executed, are not revocable. Information about whether or not the Trust can be amended or revoked should be included in the Declaration.
disputes are unavoidable, however, you should be well placed to protect the Company's interests by relying on the standard terms.
Further information relating to this question is available from Victoria Wilson, a Senior Solicitor with GHP Legal.
For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194, visit www.ghplegal.co.uk.
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CHRISTMAS MARKET STALLS

01691 668094

A. Balloons For All Occasions

B. Once Upon A Thyme

C. Sewing Alterations

Dressed up for Christmas

OSWESTRY'S market traders have been busy preparing for Christmas and have given their stalls a festive look in time for the annual best dressed stall competition.

This year's competition, organised by Oswestry Chamber of Commerce, is being held in conjunction with the Oswestry & Border Chronicle and has taken on a new look.

This year *Chronicle* readers are being asked to vote for their favourite market stall rather than a team of judges making the decision.

Market traders have been busy preparing and have submitted their entries for publication.

The seven entries are featured on this page along with a voting slip. Simply tick your favourite, cut out the form and return it to Market Competition, Oswestry Chronicle, 14 Salop Road, Oswestry, SY11 2NU.

Alternatively e-mail us with your choice at news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Remember it's only one vote per person and the closing date for entries is 5pm on Tuesday, December 17.

Best Christmas Market Stall

A. Balloons For All Occasions

B. Once Upon A Time

C. Sewing Alterations

D. Bobalots Go Retro

E. Llynclys Farm

F. Siop Cwlwm

G. Gemmipops

Circle your choice then cut out and return this coupon to: Oswestry Chronicle, 14 Salop Road, Oswestry, SY11 2NU

Or email your vote to news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk
Closing date: By 5pm on Tuesday, December 17

D. Bobalots Go Retro

E. Llynclys Farm

F. Siop Cwlwm

G. Gemmipops

Swimming Lessons Open Day

at Oswestry Leisure Centre on Saturday 28th December

the asa affiliated provider

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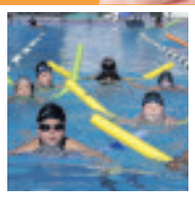

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What's more, if you enrol onto our ASA swimming lessons on the day, you'll pay nothing until February 2014**

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SwimIn Shropshire @SwimInShrops

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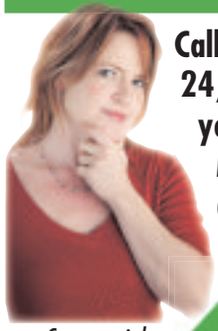

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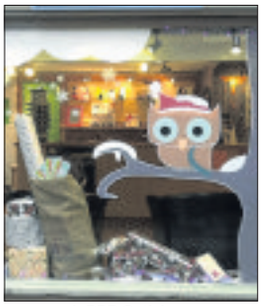

1. BBR Opticians

2. Out Of Town

3. Fab Feet

4. Oswestry Goldsmiths

5. The Gates Gifts

6. Booka Book Shop

Choose the best display

IT'S TIME to vote for your favourite Christmas shop window in Oswestry.

This year's competition, organised by Oswestry Chamber of Commerce, is being held in conjunction with the Oswestry & Border Chronicle and has taken on a new look.

This year *Chronicle* readers are being asked to vote for their favourite window rather than a team of judges making the decision. Shopkeepers have been busy preparing their windows for the annual competition and have submitted their entries for publication.

The 10 entries are featured on this page along with a voting slip. Simply circle your favourite, cut out the form and return it to Window Competition, Oswestry Chronicle, 14 Salop Road, Oswestry, SY11 2NU.

Alternatively you can e-mail us with your choice at news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

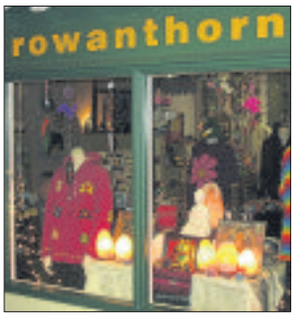
Remember it's only one vote per person and the closing date for entries is 5pm on Tuesday, December 17.

Best Christmas Window

1. BBR Opticians
2. Out Of Town
3. Fab Feet
4. Oswestry Goldsmiths
5. The Gates Gifts
6. Booka Book Shop
7. Rowanthorn
8. Honey Pots
9. Hobo Floral Designs
10. Pickles & Co

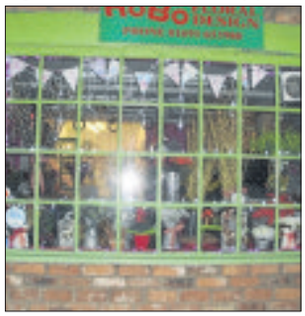
Cut out and return to Oswestry Chronicle, 14 Salop Road, Oswestry, SY11 2NU

Or email your vote to news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk
Closing date: By 5pm on Tuesday, December 17



7. Rowanthorn

8. Honey Pots


9. Hobo Floral Designs

10. Pickles and Co

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Chateau Blissa Bordeaux was £9.99 now £8.99
Champagne Lallier Vintage Champagne was £42.99 now £32.99

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NEWS in brief

Art classes to be held at The Loft

THE Loft at Coed-y-Dinas, Welshpool, is to host a series of new art classes.

Drawing and Painting the Landscape is a five-week watercolour course starting on January 29 from 10am to 3pm.

Painting Gardens starts on April 2 from 10am to 4pm. This eight session course will involve painting visits to some of the most well-known gardens in the area.

Both courses will be taught by artist and teacher Tereska Shepherd.

For bookings call (01970) 621580.

A Christmas talk for club members

MEMBERS of Welshpool and District University of the Third Age enjoyed a talk entitled "All About Christmas" by tour guide Dorothy Nicolle, followed by Christmas lunch at Powis Castle.

The next meeting will be on January 7 at Church House, Church Street, Welshpool. Doors open at 9.45am for a 10.30am start. Visit **www.welshpoolanddistrictu3a.org.uk** or call (01686) 668024 for details.

Concert at castle

THE annual Christmas carol concert will be held at Powis Castle on Saturday.

The Chester St Cecilia Singers will be performing in The Ballroom at 7pm. Tickets cost £14 for adults and £7 children from 01938 551929 or **ruth.scutter@nationaltrust.org.uk**

Firm will star in Assembly video to boost business

A WELSHPOOL company is set to star in a YouTube video to show how Welsh Assembly support can boost business.

Invertek Drives, a variable speed drives specialist based in Welshpool, was invited to take part in a series of case studies produced for the Welsh Government to showcase the support available to companies wishing to innovate in order to expand.

The independently owned company received support from the Welsh Government to ensure it develops world-leading products and services.

by Graham Breeze

Charles Haspel, operations director, said: "About 70 per cent of the world's electrical energy is consumed by electric motors so the energy efficient control of these motors is very important.

"Invertek's variable speed drives can significantly cut the amounts of energy used in a wide range of automation applications by exactly matching the speed of the electric motor with the requirements of the operation. The company operates in a huge and extremely competitive global market so developing products that people will want to buy and use is absolutely key."

He added: "We've had two forms of support from the Welsh Government, one in terms of actually providing us with buildings; the other has been focused on innovation. Smart Cymru awards have helped us to employ people who can look more widely into the research community and see what is best practice in terms of design.

"The innovation process is the heart of what we do. We're working with very big companies who are buying our technology. We need to prove to them that the technology is put together in the right way."

Invertek's products are now sold in more than 80 countries worldwide and the company is committed to an ambitious research and design programme.

Visit the Business Wales YouTube channel to view the video.

Forums give patients a say

TWO new forums have been launched in Mid Wales in a bid to find out where and how local health services can be improved.

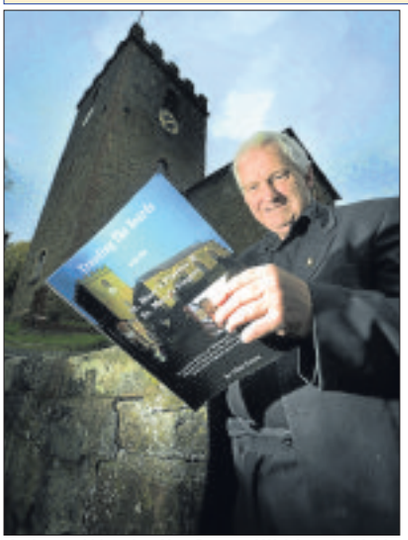
Welshpool and Newtown Health Forums have been set up by volunteers and members of health groups to give patients their say and find out what needs changing.

In Newtown the group is being led by Councillor Joy Jones and has already held two meetings, while in Welshpool, the group is being organised by Councillor John Morgan, town councillor and chairman of Montgomeryshire Community Health Council.

Councillor Morgan said he hoped the Welshpool group would hold its first meeting in the new year.

He told members of the Montgomeryshire Community Health Council: "For the first meeting I want to ensure we have a good range of speakers and people that will encourage the public to get involved, and more details will be passed on as soon as possible."

Author charts groups' history



Author and historian Alan Crowe of Welshpool with his new book, Treading the Boards, at St Mary's Church.

AN author and historian has released a book chronicling the history of two amateur theatre groups.

Alan Crowe, from Welshpool, launched his new work, Treading the Boards with the St Mary's Players and St Mary's Singers, to a crowded house.

It is the latest in a series of books that he has written charting the history of various groups in the town.

He said: "Treading the Boards with the St Mary's Players and St Mary's Singers is a concise history of the two amateur theatre groups from the 1970s through to the early 1990s and contains several hundred original photographs from the shows.

"More than 50 former members of the players and singers attended the launch at Welshpool Church House.

"Copies of the book can be purchased at £10 each from Flaunt It in Puzzle Square or Welshpool Tourist Information Centre."

The former town councillor has also recently released his autobiography, If It Wasn't For Bad Luck.

Chance to comment on traffic system

AN online survey has been launched to gauge people's views on a controversial one-way system which campaigners say will cause a serious accident.

Russell George, Montgomeryshire AM, said he had set up the survey to see what people thought of the system in Welshpool and what could be done to possibly improve it.

Powys County Council's Montgomeryshire committee approved a number of minor alterations to the system at a meeting last month amid claims that someone could be killed or seriously injured.

But Councillor Francesca Jump, a county councillor for Welshpool, said the results of two surveys from 2008 and 2012 proved that more people were in favour of the system than not.

Now Mr George has launched the new survey to gauge the current opinion.

Mr George's survey asks those taking part what mode of transport they use and whether they think it has boosted or damaged the town's economy.

It also asks whether the system should be scrapped and for people to list three areas where they experience congestion.

Log on to the website **https://t.co/oasSnDH8yo** to take part in the survey.

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War memorial project wins £50,000 funding

by Graham Breeze

A PROJECT to revive and list all war memorials across Mid Wales will be launched after Powys County Council was given a £50,000 grant.

The council's built heritage team has been awarded a £51,000 development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the Powys War Memorials Project 2014-18: A Mark of Respect.

The project will see all war memorials in Powys identified and recorded and put into a programme of repairs and improvements to ensure the county's memorial heritage is conserved for the future.

The war memorials in Welshpool and Llanfyllin are included in the scheme.

Conservation kits will be provided to communities, schools and local groups across the county to help them protect their local memorials.

The project will start next year and continue until November 2018, to coincide with the end of World War One centenary.

Alongside the HLF grant, the team has also managed to gain additional funding from Cadw, the Welsh Government's historic environment service, and from the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority .

Councillor Rosemarie Harris, cabinet member responsible for built heritage, said: "War memorials are a unique aspect of our built heritage. They stand as a moving reminder of the sacrifices made by the people in Powys during the Great War and those who have given their lives since.

"I am delighted that the Heritage Lottery Fund has provided a grant for this important project.

"It will allow local communities, especially young people, to gain a deeper understanding about the 'war to end all wars' and help preserve their local heritage."

Event brews up funds

Mayor John Meredith, Joan Meredith and Bronwen Poole help out at the fundraising coffee morning in the Corn Exchange, Welshpool.

A MAYOR'S coffee morning has been held to raise money for charity and give people the chance to meet their councillors.

Welshpool Town Council holds the event on the fourth Friday of each month at the Corn Exchange in the town hall, Broad Street.

Councillor John Meredith, town mayor, uses the events to raise money for his two charities, Welshpool Leg Club and the MS Society.

As well as hot drinks and other refreshments, a raffle is held and many town councillors are also in attendance to chat to constituents about a range of issues.

The events raise hundreds of pounds for charity each year.

Councillor Meredith said: "It is always good to see so many people at the mayor's coffee mornings and I thank them for coming along to see us.

"It is also nice that the events raise some money for the two charities chosen for my second term in office."

This year town councillors have also voted to hold a Christmas dinner at the town's Cafe Inglenook in Union Street, with 20 per cent of the cost of the meal also being donated to the two good causes.

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John Turner at Oswestry Christmas Live.

Chloe Jones, Olivia Gethin and Cerys Batten.

Sharon and Hugo Jones.

Mike and Eve Duncalf on the ice skating rink.

Thousands join in festive fun

The Christmas Live Fireworks display at Cae Glas Park. *Pictures: Peter Flemmich.*

THOUSANDS of festive revellers packed into Oswestry to see the town's Christmas lights being switched on Friday.

Roads through the centre of Oswestry were closed to traffic as a full sized fun fair was erected in the streets for one night only as part of the event, called Christmas Live.

An ice-rink and music stage were build on Festival Square while there was more music and entertainment on the Bailey Head.

Organised by Oswestry Town Council the event coincides with Oswestry's late night shopping evening.

John Needham from Kelvie's Bargains, said it was a good night for the town.

"Its good to have something that brings the younger generation into the town," he added.

Groups, acoustic singers and the Prime Percussion band provided music.

Wendy Woodcock was listening along with her daughter, Kylie, and grandsons, two-year-old Harry and five-year-old George. "It's been a brilliant evening," she said.

by Graham Breeze

"There is something in town for all ages and its great to meet up with friends and people you might not have seen in a long time. It really brings people together and kicks off Christmas."

Stallholder Jan Clarke, from Telford, said takings for her Shropshire Pickle products had been excellent.

"I come to Oswestry for the monthly farmers' market and thought I would support the Christmas Live event. Its been very good, people have certainly been buying and stocking up for Christmas."

Charity stallholders, Gill Bowler and Val Batey said business had been brisk for their fundraising for the Shropshire Cat Rescue organisation.

"There have been a lot of people shopping and its been lovely for the stallholders as it stayed mild and dry. Last year it was bitterly cold,"Miss Bowler said.

The evening ended with a spectacular firework display set off from inside Cae Glas Park.

Having fun at the ice rink, from left, Alixandra Heasner-Jones, Daniel Haycocks and Kizzy Lumley-Edwards.

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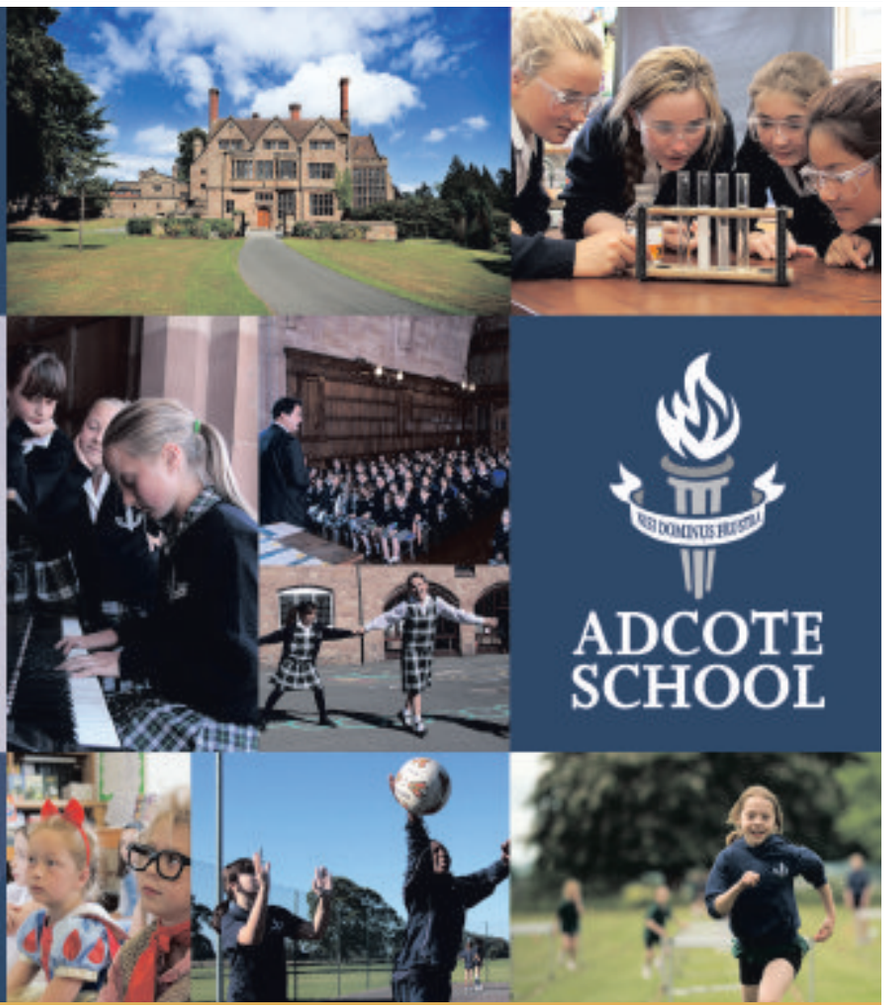

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A lorry load of elves from Fix Auto, Oswestry. *Pictures: Mark Booth.*

Santa and one of his elves from McDonald Landrovers at Oswestry Winter Carnival.

A squad of Oompah Loompahs on the Oswestry & Border Chronicle float.

Andy Morris as Grandpa Joe and Ellie Kynaston as Grandma Josephine join in the fun on the Oswestry & Border Chronicle Willy Wonka float.

Crowds enjoy winter parade

SHOPPERS lined the streets several deep in Oswestry to watch the town's winter parade.

Many spectators said Saturday's procession was the best ever, with 62 entries, including 20 floats, taking over an hour to wind through the town centre.

Clubs and organisations, churches and business pulled out all the stops to take part, with local haulage firms and farmers loaning vehicles for the annual event.

Organised by the Rotary Club, the procession was in danger of folding a few years ago with less than half a dozen vehicles taking part.

But a revival of interest had those who waited along the pavements and climbed on street furniture and walls to get a better vantage point praising all those who took part.

by Sue Austin

Children from the nursery at Holy Trinity School were given a ride in a vintage bus, courtesy of Tanat Valley Coaches. And there was an added surprise for the children when the bus driver handed out selection boxes to them all.

Classic cars and vintage tractors joined the procession and there was even a steam engine towing a float.

Perched

Film characters were a recurring theme of many of the floats, with Disney and superhero characters, 101 Dalmatians and Wizard of Oz tableaux and Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory.

Even King Kong was perched high on one of the vehicles.

The nativity was also evident on many floats as were festive elves and santas. County and town councillor Peter Cherrington was one of those watching the proceedings.

"It was brilliant. I honestly think it is the best parade we have ever had and I can only praise the people of Oswestry for showing such community spirit and doing the town proud today. Thanks must go to Rotary for organising the event so well."

Sarah Anslow with her seven-month-old daughter, Libbie Maie from Oswestry said: "It has really brought out the crowds, it's great for the town."

Chris Caldwell and his girlfriend, Karen Jones, were planning a shopping spree after the parade.

"It's been the best parade yet," he said. "Following on from Friday's Christmas Live it's a great weekend for the people of Oswestry."

The team from British Ironworks.

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Merry Christmas to all our readers, advertisers and delivery teams.

Don't miss our 12 page essential Christmas Television Guide in next week's bumper issue!

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CHRISTMAS 01691 668094

Trees and lots more at festive farm shop

Christmas trees and all the trimmings at Pentreclawdd Farm, near Oswestry.

Advertisement feature

THE Oswestry Christmas Tree & Christmas Shop is the ideal place to buy your locally grown tree.

The business is based at Pentreclawdd Farm, a former dairy farm along Gobowen Road in Oswestry inside a Grade II Listed building with a lovely Christmassy atmosphere.

Pentreclawdd Farm has two kinds of cut Christmas trees for you to choose from.

There's the Nordmann Fir which retains its needles, but if you're looking for a more traditional looking tree, then the Norway Spruce might be your choice.

You can also choose a potted tree which can be re-potted or planted outdoors after Christmas.

Pentreclawdd Farm has trees of all sizes and shapes to suit your requirements and each tree is individually priced and netted to make it easier to transport home.

There's now a fantastically festive Christmas shop, new for 2013. This exciting new addition to Pentreclawdd Farm sells tree decorations together with lights, wrapping paper, gift bags, cards and crackers. The shop stocks a range of tree stands and wreaths.

If you purchase a tree you can enjoy spending £5 in our new shop.

The farm is located just off the Orthopaedic Hospital roundabout on the A483 at the end of Gobowen Road along by the hillfort.

The farm is open until noon on December 24, from 9am-6pm from Monday to Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sundays.

Pentreclawdd Farm also has a range of glamping pods available for sale.

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Meet Father Christmas' Reindeer and enjoy Mr. Morton's Christmas Party with festive songs, a mini-Pantomime, cooking demonstrations, Punch & Judy Show, Brass Bands, Carol Singers & Father Christmas in his grotto.
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Attingham Park
Discover the mansion decorated for Christmas through the ages on 7, 8 & 14 - 23 December, 10.30am - 4pm (last entry 3.30pm)
Visit Father Christmas in the mansion (£6.50, includes gift) from 9.30am on 7, 8, 14, 15, 20 - 23 December or 4 - 6pm on 16 - 19 December. Normal admission charges apply.
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Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Former farmhouse in a beautiful valley setting

Set at the head of a valley around one-and-a-half miles from the village, Rhydyfelin, Llangynog, near Oswestry, is a detached former farmhouse which has potential as a family home.

The property includes a range of outbuildings and paddock of 1.5 acres, and is for sale with Morris Marshall & Poole at £290,000.

It has an entrance hall, sitting room, living room, kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

The house is set at the top of the plot overlooking the former yard with the stone built former agricultural buildings below. The garden area extends to the front and rear of the house with an adjoining single storey store.

In more detail the entrance hall has a quarry tiled floor while the sitting room has an inglenook fireplace.

The living room has a brick open fire and a quarry tiled floor. The kitchen includes a quarry tiled floor.

Upstairs, the bedrooms have electric storage heaters, while the bathroom has a bath, low-flush wc, wash hand basin, splash tiling to the walls, a laminate floor, part pine panelling and an electric wall heater.

Call Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 or visit www.morrismarshall.co.uk for details.

Period village property packed with character

A delightful one-bedroom semi-detached period property in an elevated position in the picturesque village of Glyn Ceiriog is on the market for offers in the region of £105,000.

The accommodation at 2 The Old Schoolhouse comprises a lounge, kitchen with oven and hob, a dining room, double bedroom with French doors and lovely views, and a bathroom.

The property benefits from oil-fired central heating and there is off road parking and a patio area to the rear and side.

Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631 or visit the website www.townandcountryoswestry.com to find out more.

Four-bedroom detached home overlooking fields

Backing on to open countryside, Wellfield, Dovaston, near Kinnerley, is a spacious four-bedroom detached property with a superb open plan kitchen/family room forming the hub of the home.

It also has an entrance hall, cloaks/wc, lounge with woodburner, a study and a utility. Upstairs are four bedrooms, one ensuite, and a family bathroom. There is a garage, car port, covered patio area and attractive garden adjoining open fields.

The property is for sale at a guide price of £380,000. Call Balfours on 01743 353511 or visit www.balfours.co.uk to find out more.

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Halls 1845

This immaculate detached four bedroom family home must be viewed to be appreciated. With views overlooking to fields and woodland in the distance, this property is situated in a popular quiet area.

- 4 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- Gas CH & UPVC DG
- Gardens
- Garage & Parking
- 1 Mile From A483
- Current EPC Rating C

Long Croft, Weston Rhyn

Price: £210,000

Contact Oswestry

This spacious detached bungalow benefits from a view over the cul de sac and over Oswestry town, with private rear gardens and three bedrooms.

- Master Bedroom With En-Suite & Dressing Room
- Gas CH & UPVC DG
- In Need Of Slight Modernisation
- Garden To Front & Rear
- Detached Garage & Parking
- Current EPC Rating D

Hampton Fields, Oswestry

Price: £249,950

Contact Oswestry

Situated in a most sought after rural location this spacious detached property must be viewed to be appreciated. The property has been extended and now provides two living quarters.

- 5 Bedroom
- Superb Kitchen Family Room
- Dating Back to Late 1800s
- Substantial Property
- Views To All Elevations
- Current EPC Rating E

Tedsmore Road, West Felton

Price: £499,950

Contact Oswestry

This detached family home is situated in an enchanting position nestled in the Cambrian Woods, down a quiet track providing seclusion but not isolation

- 5 Bedroom
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Situated In Just Over 7 Acres
- Double Garage & Parking
- Detached Workshop / Studio
- Current EPC Rating D

Quarry Road, Glyn Ceiriog

Price: £399,950

Contact Oswestry

A fine example of a traditional Victorian home which has undergone an extensive scheme of improvement by the current vendors.

- 2 Receptions Rooms, Kitchen, Utility / Side Entrance Hall,
- Ground Floor Shower Room / Cloakroom, Bedroom / Playroom
- 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Annex / Back Kitchen, Lounge, Recessed Bedroom Area
- Garage, Garage Attic Room, Outdoor Dining Area, Workshop

Victoria Road, Oswestry

Price: Offers over £270,000

Contact Oswestry

This South facing detached bungalow sits at the head of a sought after cul de sac location in Oswestry Town.

- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Gardens To Front, Side & Rear
- DG & Gas CH
- Backs Onto Open Countryside
- Garage & Parking
- Current EPC Rating D

Oerley Close, Oswestry

Price: £225,000

Contact Oswestry

This detached Chalet will be of interest to cash purchasers looking for a rural retreat.

- Living Area With Kitchenette
- 2 Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Garden Overlooking River Tanat
- Parking

Glen Pennant Gardens, Llangynog

Price: £64,950

Contact Oswestry

This immaculate detached family home is situated on a generous size corner plot within a most sought after quiet residential area.

- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Gardens, Sheds & Summer House
- Oil CH & UPVC DG
- Car Port & Parking
- Current EPC Rating F

Oerley Way, Oswestry

Price: £194,950

Contact Oswestry

A four bedroom detached family home offering adaptable and versatile accommodation set in 1.670 acres and located down a quiet country lane

- 4 Bed Property
- Annex Or Holiday Let Potential
- Brook, Woodland & Pasture
- Range Of Outbuildings
- Viewing Recommended
- Current EPC Rating D

White House, Kinnerley

Price: £374,950

Contact Oswestry

Located a stones throw from the Llangollen Canal this detached family home offers spacious accommodation. Situated in a most sought after semi rural location on the English / Welsh Border.

- 3/4 Bedrooms
- Garage & Parking
- Gardens
- Semi Rural Location
- Viewing Recommended
- Current EPC Rating F

Lower Chirk Bank, Chirk Bank

Price: £199,950

Contact Oswestry

A three bedroom mid terrace property situated in a popular residential location.

- 3 Bedroom
- 2 Receptions & Garden Room
- Oil Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Gardens
- Current EPC Rating D

Maes Y Parc, Chirk

Price: £94,950

Contact Oswestry

A most handsome Georgian townhouse offers adaptable and spacious accommodation with immediate rental income if required.

- 3 Bed House & 1 Bed Ground Floor Annex
- Gas Central Heating
- Walking Distance To Town
- Gardens
- Viewing Advised
- Current EPC Rating D

Upper Church Street, Oswestry

Price: £169,950

Contact Oswestry

An immaculate South facing detached family home in excellent decorative order throughout with views to the Breidden Hills in the distance.

- 4 Bedroom (2 With En-Suite)
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Double Garage & Parking
- LPG Gas CH & DG
- NHBC Guarantee
- Current EPC Rating D

Parc Llwyfen, Llanymynech

Price: £349,950

Contact Oswestry

A two bedroom character cottage situated in the hamlet of Pont Faen with superb views.

- 2 Reception Rooms
- Stands In Over Half An Acre
- Garage & Workshop
- Extended By Current Vendors
- Viewing Recommended
- Current EPC Rating E

Wagoners Cottage, Pontfaen, Chirk

Price: £249,950

Contact Oswestry

An imposing 1930's detached family home situated in a most sought after residential area of Oswestry.

- 4 Bedroom (Master & En-Suite)
- 3/4 Reception Rooms
- Spacious Rooms Over 3 Floors
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Garage & Parking
- Current EPC Rating E

Croeswylan Lane, Oswestry

Price: £349,950

Contact Oswestry

A delightful two bedroom detached cottage situated in a semi rural location within level walking distance of the village centre. Updated and improved by the present owners to provide a New Kitchen, new Carpets laid and a re-wire.

- 2 Double Bedrooms
- UPVC DG & Conservatory
- Central Heating
- Low Maintenance Gardens
- 2 Parking Areas
- Current EPC Rating E

Clarkes Lane, St Martins

Price: £205,000

Contact Oswestry

This charming semi detached cottage benefits from superb open views across farmland and to the Breidden Hills and boasts lovely gardens.

- 2 Bedrooms
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Oil Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Gardens
- Current EPC Rating E

Church Cottages, Four Crosses

Price: £171,500

Contact Oswestry

This 1920's detached double fronted family home offers spacious accommodation and four acres of land or thereabouts.

- 5 Bedroom Property
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Three Garden Stores
- Approx 4 Acres Of Land
- In Need Of Some Updating
- Current EPC Rating G

Bachia Cottage, Llanfyllin

Price: £399,950

Contact Oswestry

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EPC RATING D
OIRO £359,000

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NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
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GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING E
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OIRO £299,950

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EPC RATING F
OIRO £274,950

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EPC RATING D
OIRO £239,950

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NO CHAIN
2 RECEPTION ROOMS
EPC RATING E
OIRO £229,500

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CONSERVATORY
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EPC RATING E
OIRO £220,000

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Oswestry 41 Windsor Road
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Oswestry 15 Cae Melin Avenue
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EPC RATING C
£149,950

NEW

Oswestry 43 Aston Way
TWO BED DET BUNGALOW
NO CHAIN
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING TBC
£139,950

NEW

Oswestry 10 Moors Bank
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2 RECEPTION ROOMS
GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £137,950

NEW PRICE

Oswestry 45 Brookhouse Road
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GAS CENTRAL HEATING
EPC RATING D
OIRO £134,950

Oswestry 17 Ascot Road
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NO CHAIN
CONSERVATORY
EPC RATING D
OIRO £115,950

Oswestry 10 Elgar Close
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NO CHAIN
KITCHEN/DINER
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OIRO £114,950

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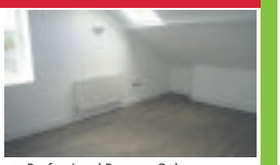
- Guarantor checks are £50 if needed.
- For further details please call the office on 01691679631.

OSWESTRY



- Second Floor Apartment
- One Bedroom
- Available
- Professional Persons Only
- No Smokers. EPC C.
- No Pets

£400 Per month

WESTON RHYN

- Two Bedrooms
- Village Location
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden. EPC D.
- No Pets/ Smokers/Dss
- Viewing Recommended

£450 Per month

OSWESTRY

- Ground Floor Apartment
- One Bedroom
- Off Road Parking
- Integrated Appliances
- EPC Rating B.
- No Pets
- Professional Persons Only
- No Smokers

£450 Per month

OSWESTRY

- Brand New Apartment
- Top Floor
- Two Bedrooms
- Available Now
- Professional Persons Only
- No Smokers / No Pets

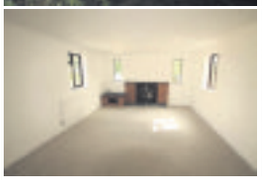
£450 Per month

NANT Y CAWS

- Available Immediately
- Two Bedrooms. EPC D.
- Mid Terrace Property
- Picturesque Location
- Viewing recommended
- No Pets/DSS

£450 Per month

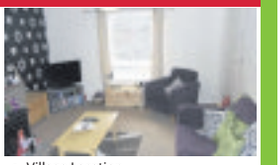
WESTON



- Detached country cottage
- Four bedrooms
- Quiet hamlet location
- Modernised throughout
- Oil central heating
- Available immediately
- No Pets/Smokers. EPC C.
- Professional persons only

£675 Per month

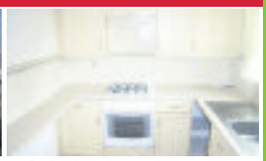
LLANRHAEADR YM



- End Terrace House
- Three Bedrooms. EPC E.
- Available 1st February
- Village Location
- Electric Heating
- Spacious Accommodation

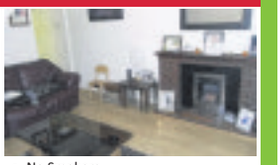
£475 Per month

OSWESTRY



- Semi Detached House
- Two Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Professional Person Only
- Double Glazing. EPC C.
- Gas Central Heating

£475 Per month



- Two Bedroooms
- Off Street Parking
- EPC Rating D
- No Smokers
- No Pets/DSS
- Available December

£475 Per month

OSWESTRY

- Semi-detached House
- Two Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Professional Persons Only
- No Smokers. EPC D.
- No Pets

£475 Per month

CHIRK

- Modern Semi Detached
- Two Bedrooms
- Fully Modernized
- Off Road Parking. EPC D.

£475 Per month

OSWESTRY

- **Available Immediately**
- Semi-Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms. EPC E
- No Pets/No Smokers

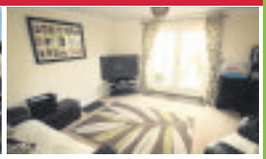
£475 Per calendar month

ST MARTINS

- Semi-Detached
- Two Bedrooms
- Village Location
- Gas Central Heating
- Gardens To Rear. EPC F.
- Viewings Recommended

£500 Per month

LLANFYLLIN



- Mid-Terrace House
- Three Bedrooms
- Available Mid-December
- Local Ammenities Close
- Village Location. EPC D.
- No pet/dss/smokers

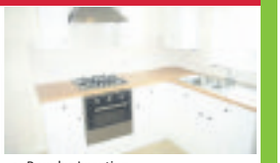
£500 Per month

OSWESTRY

- Available Immediately
- Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms. EPC E
- Cul de Sac Location
- Off Road Parking and Carport
- Gas C. H.& D. Glazing

£525 Per month

OSWESTRY



- End Terraced House
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage and Parking
- Popular Location
- Professional Persons Only
- No Pets/Smokers. EPC C

£550 Per month

CHIRK BANK

- Three bedrooms
- End Terrace House
- Well maintained
- Available soon. EPC E.

£550 Per month

TREFLACH

- Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Available. EPC E.
- Utility & Cloakroom

£595 Per month

MORDA

- Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Available November
- Off Road Parking. EPC C

£600 Per month

PANT

- Available Immediately
- Recently Renovated
- Detached Cottage
- Three Bedrooms. EPC C

£650 Per month

OSWESTRY

- NO CHAIN!!
- Updated Maisonette
- Three Bedrooms. EPC D
- Off Road Parking

£63,500

OSWESTRY

- Three Bedrooms
- Three Storeys
- Conservatory. EPC C
- Bathroom & Shower Room

£172,500

2-4 Willow Street, Oswestry, SY11 1AA Visit all our propertiesat www.townandcountryoswestry.com

TOWN & COUNTRY

Tel :01691 679631

GLYN CEIRIOG

- Pretty Terraced Cottage
- NO CHAIN. EPC E.
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Beamed Ceilings
- Well Maintained
- Sought After Location

£95,000

OSWESTRY

- NO CHAIN!!!
- End of Terrace House
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Close to Town Centre

£109,950

GARTH

- NO CHAIN!!!
- End Terrace Cottage
- Two Bedrooms
- Good Sized Rear Gardens
- In Need of Updating
- Fantastic Views

£114,500

WESTON RHYN

- Single Building Plot
- Outline Planning Permission
- Detached Two Storey Dwelling
- Established Development
- Section 106
- Popular Location

Offers in the region of £59,950

LLANYMYNECH

- Detached Village Cottage
- Good Sized Rear Garden
- Ideal For Further Development
- Two Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking. EPC G
- Great Potential

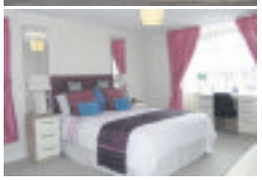
£170,000

LLANSANTFFRAID, POWYS

- Mid Terraced Cottage
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Good Sized Garden to Rear
- Many Original Features
- Oil Fired Central Heating

£135,000

GOBOWEN



- Modern Ex- Show Home
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Cul de Sac Location. EPC C
- Immaculate Presentation
- Backing Onto Fields
- Spacious Accommodation
- High Specification
- A Must See Property

£229,950

OSWESTRY

- Detached Family House
- Four Bedrooms. EPC C
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- En Suite, Cloaks & Utility
- Two Reception Rooms
- Gas Central Heating.

Offers in the region of £182,500

TREGEIRIOG

- Three Bed Country Cottage
- Well Maintained
- Dating Back To 1857
- P.P. For Extension
- Stunning Rural Location
- Recently Updated

£335,000

OSWESTRY

- STAMP DUTY PAID
- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms. EPC D.
- Beautifully Presented
- uPVC Double Glazing
- Lawned Gardens

£269,950

GLYN CEIRIOG

- Delightful Country Cottage
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Parking and Garage. EPC E
- Backing Onto Open Fields
- Set In The Ceiriog Valley

£295,000

TREFONEN

- Split Level Detached Property
- Far Reaching Views
- Four Bedrooms
- Double Garage. EPC E.

£295,000

MORTON

- Unique Character Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Many Original Features
- Sought After Location

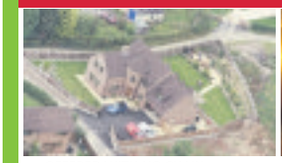
£299,950

RHOS Y GADFA

- Detached Period Farmhouse
- Paddocks Extending to Six Acres
- Numerous Outbuildings & Barns
- Purpose built Stable Block. EPC G.
- Great Business/ Development Opportunity

£637,000

TREFLACH, OSWESTRY



- OFFERED WITH NO CHAIN
- Luxury Detached Property
- Five Bedrooms. EPC C
- Landscaped Gardens
- Double Garage
- Village Location

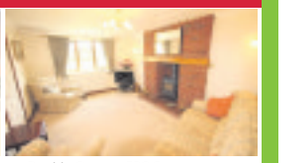
£399,950

SELATTYN

- Country Cottage
- Three Bedrooms
- 2.2 Acres. EPC D.
- Workshop
- Barns
- Stable

£320,000

MAESBROOK



- Large Detached House
- Five Bedrooms (Four Doubles)
- Three Reception Rooms
- Double Garage. EPC C
- Delightful Rural Views
- Sought After Location

£332,000

RHOS-Y-BRITHDIR

- Detached Property
- Five Bedrooms and Study
- Three Reception Rooms
- Garage. EPC D.

£355,000

DUDLESTON

- Detached Country Property
- Spacious Accommodation
- Four Double Bedrooms. EPC E
- Rural Setting with Views.

£374,950

SELATTYN, OSWESTRY

- Former Methodist Chapel
- Set in Approx 1.1 acres
- Idyllic Rural Location
- Three Bedrooms. EPC C

£389,950

GLYN CEIRIOG

- Detached Cottage
- Four Bedrooms
- Approx. 9.5 Acres
- Oil Central Heating. EPC E.

£399,950

TREFONEN

- Executive Detached House
- Four Bedrooms (2 Ensuite)
- Three Reception Rooms. EPC C
- Sought After Location

£319,950

LLWYN Y GO

- Detached Cottage
- Four/ Five Bedrooms
- Extensive Gardens. EPC E
- Open Rural Views

£310,000

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FINE & COUNTRY
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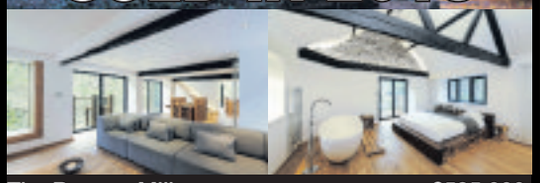
The Old Rectory

The Grade II listed Old Rectory is a substantial late Georgian/Regency house, with a self contained annexe. It incorporates many delightful architectural features including fine architraves, ceiling cornices and original open fireplaces. Today the Old Rectory offers comfortable well-appointed accommodation. Care has been taken to maintain many attractive period features. Built in 1814 and in the style of a Tuscan Villa the original house was designed by Joseph Bromfield, a noted Shrewsbury architect who designed and worked on a number of important houses in Shropshire and North wales.

Welshpool: 01938 531000



The Berwyn Mill £595,000

This stunning and immaculately restored 18th Century water mill is situated in an Area of outstanding natural beauty, close to the popular major hubs of Chester and Wrexham. The Mill occupies an idyllic rural position amongst 3 acres of terraced woodland incorporating a landscaped garden and three peaceful woodland walks. EPC: C

Welshpool: 01938 531000

Uwch Y Llan

An award winning barn conversion, completely surrounded by its 33 acres of grounds, boasting a wealth of character and charm with magnificent, far reaching views. This truly stunning barn conversion, converted by the current owner, is definitely a one off, with an abundance of exposed beams and vaulted ceilings including 2 impressive cruck frames. The well-proportioned character accommodation has been thoughtfully designed to make the most of the breath-taking views which can be enjoyed from most of the rooms. In addition to the main house, with its four bedrooms (two en-suite) and large reception rooms, is The Hafod (Summer Dwelling).

Welshpool: 01938 531000

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A contemporary and spacious family house in a popular area

Sitting Room, Kitchen/Family Room, Study, Master Bedroom with En Suite Shower Room. 3 Further Bedrooms. Bathroom. Office. Garage. Garden. EPC D

Guide Price £380,000

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SY11 2NN

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rightmove.co.uk

RICS

9 Belle Vue, Morda, Oswestry

£134,995

- Three bedroom semi-detached house
- Lounge, kitchen and ground floor cloaks
- Gas-fired central heating and double glazing
- Ample parking, enclosed rear garden
- Full width Upvc D/G conservatory at rear
- Available with no onward chain
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 59 (D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

Christmas Opening Hours 2013

FRI 20th	9:00 to 11:30am
SAT 21st	9:30 to 1:00pm
MON 23rd	9:00 to 12:00noon
TUES 24TH	CLOSED
WED 25TH	CLOSED
THU 25TH	CLOSED
FRI 27TH	9:00 to 12:00
SAT 28TH	9:30 to 1:00
MON 30th	9:00 to 12:00
TUE 31ST	CLOSED
WED 1st	CLOSED

The Partners and staff would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

3 Brynglas, Welshpool

£149,950

- Detached 3 Bedroom Town Bungalow
- Sitting Room, Kitchen/Dining, Shower Room
- Gas Heating, Double Glazed
- Car Port, Garage, Front and rear gardens
- Would benefit from modern refitting
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 65

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

Ty Croes, Llanymynech

£100,000

- Detached Grade II listed character property
- In need of extensive renovation/modernisation
- With many original period features
- 2 receptions & 6 bedrooms, off road parking
- Of interest to builders & developers
- Current energy efficiency rating = 30. No Chain

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

Selling ?

Give us a ring to arrange a Free, No Obligation Market Appraisal of your Property

M M P

MORRIS MARSHALL & POOLE

Contact us on 01691 679595

Apt 6, The Old Creamery, Four Crosses

£112,500

- Leasehold Grade II listed Second Floor Apartment
- Ent Hall, open plan Kitchen / Living Room
- Mezzanine Living Area, Main bedroom with En-Suite shower
- Second bedroom, Bathroom, Double Glazed, Electric Heating
- Convenient to village amenities, Welshpool & Oswestry
- Energy efficiency rating = 75

Welshpool Office 01938 554818

6 Victoria Street, Oswestry

£119,950

- Mid terrace house close to town
- Double glazing and gas central heating
- 2 Receptions, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom
- Rear garden, external store and W.C
- Well maintained with retained original features
- Internal Inspection recommended
- NO CHAIN. Energy Efficiency Rating = 61

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LET

OSWESTRY

1 Bed F/F Flat, Elec Heaters FTE, No Pets (EER=1)	£200 pcm (£300 deposit)
Self-Con 2nd/F Bedsit, FTE, Pkg, No Pets. (EER=50)	£260 pcm (£360 deposit)
1 Bed 2nd/F Flat, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets (EER=68)	£280 pcm (£380 deposit)
1 Bed 2nd/Floor Flat, FTE, No Pets (EER=42)	£290 pcm (£390 deposit)
2 Bed End Ter, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets (EER=53)	£365 pcm (£465 deposit)
2 Bed G/Floor Flat, FTE, No Pets (EER=66)	£375 pcm (£375 deposit)
2 Bed G/F Flat, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets. (EER=63)	£450 pcm (£550 deposit)
3 Bed Semi, Gas C/H, Pkg, FTE, No Pets. (EER=45)	£550 pcm (£650 deposit)
3 Bed Bung, Gas C/H, Pkg, FTE, No Pets. (EER=50)	£750 pcm (£850 deposit)

MORDA

2 Bed F/F Flat, Gas C/H, Pkg, FTE, No Pets, (EER=61)	£425 pcm (£525 deposit)

PARK HALL

2 Bed G/F Flat, C/H, Pkg, FTE, No Pets. (EER=58)	£395 pcm (£495 deposit)

REDNAL

2 Bed Semi, C/H, FTE, No Pets/Children (EER=31)	£490 pcm (£590 deposit)

LLANYMYNECH

2 Bed Cott, C/H, Pkg, FTE, No Pets/Children (EER=38)	£495 pcm (£595 deposit)

GOBOWEN

3 Bed House, Gas C/H, Pkg, FTE, No Pets (EER=79)	£560 pcm (£660 deposit)

Nr SELATTYN

1 Bed Furnished Flat, Oil C/H, Single P/P (EER=57)	£360 pcm (£460 deposit)

Non-Optional Fees: Application Fee: £40. Lease Fee: £132
All our rentals can now be found on www.rightmove.co.uk.

Glasfryn, Foel, Welshpool

£115,000

- Extended Semi-Detached Village Cottage
- Lounge with open fireplace, Kitchen/Diner with woodburner
- 2 Double Bedrooms, Bathroom. UPVC Double Glazing
- Ample parking. Timber & corrugated sheeted Store Shed.
- Refurbished throughout. NO CHAIN
- Energy Efficiency Rating = 38.

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Bowen Son and Watson
Established 1869

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Llangollen 01978 860346 Wrexham 01978 340000

RICS

NEW

Churchfields St Martins £149,995

- Spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property situated in the village of St Martins
- Large Conservatory/Family Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Utility, Cloakroom, Lounge,
- 3 Bedrooms and Bathroom, gated driveway and detached garage
- Good size rear garden. Gas C/H and uPVC D/G. EPC Rating D

MORDA Road Oswestry £625,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase an immaculately presented 6 bedroom executive family home standing within generous grounds extending to approximately 0.5 acre
- Constructed approximately 10 years ago and was finished to the highest of standards. With light and spacious rooms which are spread over 3 floors all accessed off a glazed atrium at the heart of the property
- Landscaped gardens with a large terrace area to the rear and a gated driveway providing security and off road parking, large Double Garage and Log Cabin. EPC Rating C

NEW

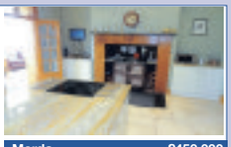
Berllan Close Weston Rhyn £209,995

- Superbly appointed Detached Family House
- Situated in an ideal location within walking distance of the centre of Weston Rhyn.
- Entrance Hall, Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Cloakroom
- 4 Excellent Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom.
- Oil fired C/H, uPVC double glazing and spacious gardens. EPC Rating

NEW - NO CHAN

Ellesmere Road St. Martins £155,000

- Deceptively spacious Detached Cottage close to the centre of St Martins
- Ent Hall, Dining Rm, Lounge, Living Rm, Breakfast Kitchen, Utility
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite & adjoining Balcony
- 2 further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Detached garage block with adjoining study and low maintenance gardens
- Gas fired central heating and ample off-road parking. EPC Rating D



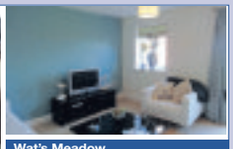
Morda Oswestry £450,000

- A substantial Double fronted Georgian style property retains a host of original features, has been extensively modernised by the current owners
- Recently fitted Kitchen, Drawing Rm, Study, Sun Rm, Utility Rm, Cellars, 4 large Beds, Family Bathrm & Separate Shower Rm. EPC Rating F
- Substantial stone/brick built outbuildings which could be used for a host of future uses (subject to planning consents). Further brick built Building is currently used as a Games Rm
- Standing in an elevated position overlooking landscaped gardens with views, large patio, extends to approx 0.72 acre (0.29 ha)

NO CHAIN

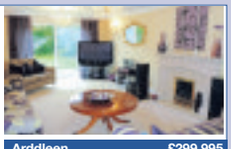
Hengoed Nr Oswestry £435,000

- A beautifully presented & luxuriously appointed barn conversion with landscaped gardens
- Farmhse Kitchen with Oil Fired Aga range, adjoining Dining Rm & Utility
- Drawing Rm has glazed panels to 1 elevation with views & smaller Living Rm
- Master Bedroom, En-suite & Guest Bedrm, 3 Beds & Family Bathrm
- Large well stocked garden to front, large parking area & Dble Garage Block
- Enclosed Patio area with views across open countryside. EPC Rating F



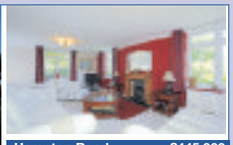
Wat's Meadow Gobowen

- A mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom homes constructed by Fletcher Homes situated on the exclusive Wats Meadow development close to the centre of the popular village of Gobowen
- The properties have been constructed to the highest of specification and have the benefit of a 10 Year NHBC Guarantee
- All properties have a minimum of parking spaces and or garage. Good size rear gardens
- ●●●HELP TO BUY SCHEME AVAILABLE ON THIS PROPERTY●●●
- Showhomes open for viewings Thursdays to Mondays 11.00am to 5.00



Arddleen Nr Welshpool £299,995

- A most comfortably appointed and spacious Modern Detached Residence only twelve years old, built to very high standards
- Storm Porch, Reception Hall, Cloaks, Study. Spacious Lounge, Sitting Rm, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Master Bedroom & Guest Bedroom (both en-suite), 2 Further Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- LPG Gas C/H, high security D/G, intruder alarm, dble garage & ample parking on driveway. EPC Rating D

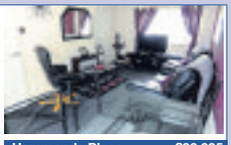


Hampton Road Oswestry £445,000

- A spacious Detached Family Residence situated in a one of Oswestry's premier residential locations
- The property has been finished to the highest of standards
- Entrance Hall, Study, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Garden Room, Utility & Cloak Room
- 4 Ensuite Bedrooms, 2 other Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Large Attic
- The property stands in well stocked landscaped gardens with a raised patio. Garage with tarmac driveway. Gas C/H. EPC Rating E

Blackfriars Oswestry £184,500

- A deceptively spacious Detached Bungalow situated in a mature residential
- The current owners have extended the property to create a spacious family home with a large private garden and flexible accommodation
- Ent Hall, Living Room, Kitchen/Dining Room and adjoining Side Lobby, Inner Hallway leading to 3 Bedrooms, Bathroom, Large Conservatory and Utility Room/WC
- Large driveway together with lawned gardens to the rear and a large patio. Gas C/H & D.G. EPC Rating D



Hammonds Place Gobowen £99,995

- A spacious 2 Bedroom End-Terrace Property situated in a popular residential area in the village of Gobowen.
- The property has the advantage of a large plot with a concrete driveway to the fore providing ample off-road parking
- Lounge, Conservatory and Kitchen on the ground floor and 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom on the first floor
- Outside the property has a large brick storage building and adjoining open fronted storage shed together with a private rear garden
- uPVC double glazing windows throughout and Gas C/H. EPC Rating D

NO CHAIN

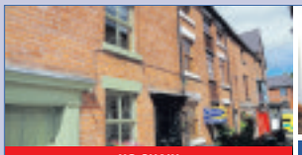
Carreghofa Llanymynech £220,000

- A spacious Detached Bungalow
- Set within a large plot and having outstanding views to rear
- Entrance Hall, Cloaks, Sitting Rm, Conservatory, Dining Rm
- Kitchen/Breakfast Rm, Shower Rm/Utility, 2 Bedrooms, Family Bathroom
- D/G, Oil C/H, low maintenance PVC fascias and soffit's
- Single garage, delightful gardens with ample parking. EPC Rating E

NO CHAIN

Llanforda Rise Oswestry £214,995

- A most spacious and comfortably appointed Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Ent Porch, Entrance Hall, Large Sitting Rm, Kitchen/Breakfast Rm
- 2 Ground Floor Bedrooms or one bedroom and a Dining rm
- Box Room, 2 Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom & Separate WC
- Delightful lawned gardens to fore & rear, parking and garage
- D/G, Oil C/H. EPC Rating E



NO CHAIN

Narrow Street Llanfyllin £89,995

- A rare opportunity to purchase a 3 Storey Mid-Terrace Property
- The property retains a host of original features throughout
- Lounge, Kitchen on the ground floor with extensive cellars below
- Bedroom and bathroom on the first floor
- Further Bedroom and Study/Bedroom 3
- Small courtyard garden to rear and Gas C/H. EPC Rating F

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- EPC Band - C

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£400,000

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- Modern Bathroom
- Loft/Bedroom 3
- Rear Yard And Garden
- EPC Band E

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OFFERS OVER £89,950

OSWESTRY

- Modern Detached Bungalow
- GFCH & D/G
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Two Bedrooms
- Garage And Parking
- Front And Rear Gardens
- Cul De Sac Location
- EPC Band D

JJD814

£138,950

LLANRHAEADR YM MOCHNANT

- Traditional Village Cottage
- Oil Fired CH
- Sitting Room
- Dining Kitchen
- Conservatory
- 2 Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- Adjoining Garage/ Outbuilding with Loft

EPC Band - F

JJD834

£139,950

GOBOWEN

Close Care Residential Bungalow on purpose-built complex

- C/H, D/G
- Lounge/Dining Area
- UPVC Conservatory
- Large Bathroom
- Two Bedrooms
- Rear Enclosed Paved Yard
- Garage
- Semi-Rural Location
- EPC Band D

JJD811

£109,500

LLANFYLLIN

- OFCH/UPVC DG
- Cloakroom
- Two Reception
- Laundry Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Three Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite
- Terraced Garden
- EPC Band - - E

JJD819

£339,500

GOBOWEN

- Detached Three Bedroomed Split Level House
- GFC/H, D/G
- Impressive Lounge
- Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen & Utility
- Garage & Car Parking
- Attractive Patio Garden
- Elevated Position Overlooking Village
- EPC Band D

JJD781

£210,000

LLANYMYNECH

- Detached Bungalow
- Large S/C Guest Suite/ Annex
- Four Bedrooms
- Three Bathrooms
- Two Large Conservatories
- Garage/Workshop
- Delightful Landscaped Garden
- Ample Parking
- Well Stocked Pond
- Approx. 2 acres In All
- EPC Band D

JJD817

£750,000

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JJD708

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JJD832

£55,000

OSWESTRY TO LET

- Entrance Lobby
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Conservatory
- 2 Bedrooms
- Parking for 2 vehicles
- Rear Patio Garden
- Walking Distance Of Town
- EPC Band - E

JJD032

£495

TREFLACH - TO LET

- Semi Detached Cottage
- Well Appointed
- OFCH & DG
- Entrance Hall
- Sitting Room
- Dining Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Parking for 2 Vehicles
- EPC Band - F

JJD024

£455

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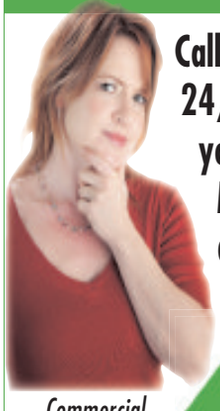

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FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

deaths

✝

EVANS

James David

(Jim)

Of Hanwood, on December 4, 2013, aged 74 years.

Formerly of Ellesmere and Acton Burnell.

The Devoted Husband of the late Eva, a much loved Dad to Andrew, Nicola, Louise and Matthew, an adored Grandad.

Service at Shrewsbury Crematorium, on Thursday, December 12, 2013, at 4pm.

No flowers by request.

Donations, if wished, to be divided between the Severn Hospice and The Arthritis and Rheumatism Trust Fund at Gobowen, for which purpose a collection box will be provided at the Crematorium.

Inquiries please to

CLIVE PUGH
Funeral Directors
95, Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
SY2 6BB
Telephone: 01743 244644

GRIFFITHS

Leonard

Of Pant, near Oswestry.

Passed away peacefully on December 3, 2013, aged 88 years.

Dearly loved Husband of the late Barbara, dear Father of Basil, David and Andrew and a loving Grandfather and Great-Grandfather.

Funeral Service at St Agatha's Parish Church, Llanymynech, on Monday, December 16, at 10.30am, followed by a Private Cremation. Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to Hope House Children's Respite Hospice.

All inquiries to
DAVID DAVIES & SONS
1 Upper Church Street
Oswestry
Telephone 01691 653116.

PRICE

William Henry Arthur

(Bill the Barber)

Late of Coney Green, Oswestry.

Passed away peacefully on December 5, 2013, aged 89 years.

Much loved Husband of Florence, loving Dad of Elaine, Father-in-law of John Clare and Grandad to Matthew.

Funeral Service at St Oswald's Parish Church, Oswestry, on Tuesday, December 17, at 11am, followed by Interment at Oswestry Cemetery.

Family flowers only.

Donations, if desired, to Cancer Research UK.

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A willingness to play a full and active part in the extra-curricular life of the school is essential and this will include taking international pupils on cultural visits.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its students and expects its staff to share this commitment. Applicants must be prepared to undergo child protection screening including checks with past employers and CRB.

Closing date: Friday, 20th December.

Further details and application forms are available from the College website, www.ellesmere.com or from The Headmaster's Secretary, Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 624458 email: hmsecretary@ellesmere.com

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Interested candidates should e-mail their CV with a covering letter to neil@recycling-uk.com by Friday 20th December 2013 Oswestry Wastepaper Ltd. Maesbury Road, Mile Oak Ind Estate, Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 8GA

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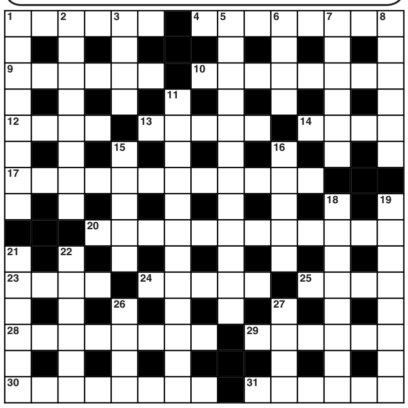

Compiled by Roger F. Squires

ACROSS

1 Seize a king before all others (6)
4 Negroes involved in fracas (8)
9 Put on gear that's strangely colourful (6)
10 Are clues like this the bane of the sailor's life? (5,3)
12 A resounding come back (4)
13 Locks are the key to its existence (5)
14 Borrowed time? (4)
17 Accusations? (5,7)
20 But it's not what pyromaniacs suffer from (7,5)
23 The best part of a play (4)
24 Sailor has half a bottle with a male superior (5)
25 Mineral used in ancient alchemy (4)
28 Transaction which is without credit (4,4)
29 A negative which, if flat, isn't developed (6)
30 Tenniel's new watch (8)
31 A small pen, perhaps (6)

DOWN

1 Particularly the highest (5,3)
2 Descriptive of the rasher drivers? (4,4)
3 Turn gas to zero for the pudding (4)
5 An aimless order? (4,2,6)
6 Side turning Caesar was warned about (4)
7 Possibly unseat a famous novelist (6)
8 Sea air? (6)
11 A fair swimmer? (7,5)
15 A series of records, maybe (5)
16 A number possibly left for the Dutch pottery (5)
18 Profession that calls for men with high qualifications (8)
19 Couple hired to make jewellery (8)
21 The opposite of bustles - yet still worn (6)
22 A clergyman has little right to come between father and son (6)
26 Wine that sparkles as it rises (4)
27 Extremely light (4)

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Across: 1 Golf course, 6 Enow, 10 Libra, 11 Intersect, 12 Primrose, 13 Miser, 15 Artisan, 17 Situate, 19 Reduced, 21 Tornado, 22 Cabin, 24 Salvages, 27 In the main, 28 Steer, 29 Grey, 30 Crosspatch.

Down: 1 Gold, 2 Liberated, 3 Charm, 4 Unicorn, 5 Sitters, 7 Needs, 8 Water melon, 9 Prompter, 14 Barracking, 16 Seconded, 18 Abasement, 20 Despair, 21 Talents, 23 Bathe, 25 Aesop, 26 Arch.

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Still smiling after super weekend of fun events

AT THE time of writing my face is still smiling from memories of the Oswestry Live event and the Rotary Christmas Parade both of which took place over the past weekend.

Activities such as these bring out the very best in people and that is certainly true of the clubs, societies and businesses of Oswestry.

The opportunity for everyone to pull together in the name of fun demonstrates one of the greatest things Oswestry has to celebrate. Community.

As a Chamber of Commerce we work hard to promote a strong business community in and around the town and that, we hope, benefits everyone by providing the activities, opportunities and events that make Oswestry a town to be proud of.

As another challenging year draws to a close, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on the positives around us.

Without the creative thinking and hard work of the local business community, our town would look and feel very different indeed.

We have some great independent businesses, a number of organisations and charities that work hard for the people of the town and a range of festivals and events to keep our 2014 calendar busy and full of fun.

So over the festive season let's raise our glasses to everyone in and around our town who go that extra mile to make a difference for us all.

Oswestry Chamber of Commerce meets again from 6pm at The Wynnstay Hotel on Wednesday, February 5, 2014. Visitors and members welcome.

HEATHER NOBLE
Chairman
Oswestry Chamber of Commerce

Library hub may get new pods to improve privacy

A COMMUNITY hub at Oswestry Library is set to be remodelled to improve privacy for users.

by Pam Kingsley

The Hub opened a year ago in the foyer of the library and was designed as somewhere people could go to "self service" their issues by making phone calls or using the internet, but where they would also be able to talk to an advisor if they needed to.

Chris Westwood, customer services manager at Shropshire Council, said after carrying out a consultation with library users it was clear that the main concern was that of privacy.

Mr Westwood shared his plans for the remodelling of the Hub at a meeting of Oswestry Town Council on Monday night.

He said he plans to introduce small "pods" for people to use to discuss personal or private issues which he hopes will made the area less intimidating for people walking through to the main library.

"We've got a system of acoustically shielded pods," he said. "We've gone for something that's temporary rather than something that's built in so that if we need to move them or redesign them we can.

"I've tried to address criticisms and concerns of privacy and dignity for the library users and the Hub users. I want this to work for the Hub users and for the library, but it's very much a learning curve. It has been since the Hub opened and I'm very open-minded about where we go with this."

Mr Westwood said the screens are 1.8m tall and cost £5,800 each.

"You can buy the screens with tops like roofs but then they're £5,500 a piece and that's too expensive," he said. "I was told this had to be the cheapest possible."

Councillors were generally in favour of the plans.

However, Councillor Duncan Kerr said: "It's good that you recognise the problems. It's a shame that you didn't recognise this when you were setting up the Hub." Mr Westwood added: "I think it's one of those things we have to try."

Plans will be shown to library staff and put on display in the library for users to view and comment on before any changes are made.

Football team wins extra funding deal

Clive Knowles, right, managing director of The British Ironwork Centre with his team which was beaten 5-1 by Oswestry Town.

PLAYERS at Oswestry Town FC had to work hard to secure further sponsorship from the British Ironwork Centre on Sunday.

Already sponsored by the Ironwork Centre during their first season in the Mercian Regional League Oswestry took on a challenge from their backers to secure new tracksuits.

The deal was that if the sponsor's team won a match against the club the team would have to work free of charge for a day at the Oswestry company headquarters.

Already a proud sponsor of the recently formed FC Oswestry Town, flying high in its first season of the Mercian Regional Football League division one, the centre offered further support through the provision and sponsorship of tracksuits for the whole squad.

In the match Oswestry proved too strong for their backers, winning 5-1, to ensure the presentation of the new tracksuits.

"This event was excellent for the staff as a whole, including those that didn't play, boosting morale and helping the centre to improve team building and inter departmental relations," said the company's managing director Clive Knowles.

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Website hits boosted after message sent to TV's Theo

SENDING a simple tweet to TV's Dragon Den star Theo Paphitis has trebled the hits on an Oswestry company's website.

Jude Robinson, joint owner and commercial director of GWR Fasteners Limited, tweeted Mr Paphitis about their business during #SBS, a weekly initiative set up by the TV star.

Theo re-tweeted Jude's message to his 300,000 followers and as a result the business had over 200 more Twitter followers and more than trebled the hits to their company website in a matter of a few hours. GWR were also profiled on a new website **www.theopaphitissbs.com** which is exclusive to Small Business Sunday winners.

Theo Paphitis then invited all of his #SBS winners to the ICC in Birmingham where both Jude and the company's managing director Gary Robinson had the opportunity to network and take part in a question and answer session.

"This year has been amazing for us," said Mrs Robinson. "We won the Oswestry & Border Chronicle's Young Business of the Year 2013 and to be recognised by someone as renowned as Theo Paphitis in the world of business, is the icing on the cake.

"To actually meet him was phenomenal and inspiring. Theo is so supportive of UK small businesses and describes us as the backbone of the economy.

"It was truly an amazing day and a great opportunity to meet other like-minded business people. We're really excited and honoured to be part of the #SBS family and to attend these annual events with Theo.

"Our Twitter following (@GWRFasteners) continues to grow and we're looking forward to continuing to develop our successful business in 2014 and beyond with Theo's support."

GWR, a company started in 2009, are a fasteners distributor and manufacturer of special fasteners and precision components shipping to customers worldwide. It is the only company in the UK who can colour stainless steel – GWR Colourfast.

Gary Robinson, managing director with Theo Paphitis and Jude Robinson the firm's commercial director.

Busy time as panto tours held at castle

WHITTINGTON Castle near Oswestry is preparing for a busy time in the run-up to Christmas.

On the two Sundays before the celebration, the castle's grounds will be filled with craft stalls, Father Christmas will be in his grotto, and the story of Dick Whittington will be brought to life on a panto tour around the castle.

Visitors will be able to join the panto tour and be shown around the castle.

Castle manager Sue Ellis, said: "The panto tours feature local children playing many of the parts as well as volunteers from our local medieval re-enactment group and theatre groups."

Tours will be suitable for all the family with adult tickets £2.50 children £1.50. Booking is essential. The tours are at noon and 2pm and should last approximately 30-50 minutes.

Santa's grotto is open from 1pm to 4pm. Call the castle on (01691) 662500.

Time to Listen

STAFF at Oswestry Library are inviting people to take a break today and sit back and relax at a Time To Listen special event, from 2pm to 3.30pm. Staff will be reading aloud fiction, non-fiction and poems on a Christmas theme.

by Graham Breeze

Don't be put off on claims, urges lawyer

A LAWYER specialising in clinical negligence has urged readers to make claims, particularly in birth injury.

The statement by Neil Lorimer, of Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors, follows a debate on BBC 5 Live which discussed the £420 million compensation the NHS has spent on birth injury in 2012/2013.

The programme highlighted that birth injury is a high risk area and queried whether injury compensation should be paid. "People should not feel guilty about bringing a claim," said Mr Lorimer.

"You would only need to visit a child with cerebral palsy to realise the burden borne by parents and the difficulties faced by the child in terms of degree of care, loss of earnings, need for suitable accommodation and help with managing their financial affairs through the Court of Protection."

Farmer's shop has new store opening

A PIG farmer who was facing financial disaster 14 years ago has just opened a new butchery and delicatessen at a garden centre near Wrexham.

Jamie Ward now employs 12 people at his farm in Whittington near Oswestry, running stalls at farmers' markets and now at the Bellis Garden Centre in Holt.

The butchery department and deli will be officially opened next week.

Mr Ward said that he would be sourcing meat from local producers.

"If we can buy local then we can keep farmers in business and people in jobs. That in itself helps to keep shops, pubs and schools open.

"The business has grown so much that we have been looking for some time for a base away from the farm and have been waiting for the right opportunity."

Store is to close for redecoration

AN OSWESTRY retailer will be taking time out after Christmas to redecorate in time for the new year.

Honeysuckle Wholefoods in Church Street will be closed from Christmas Day until January 7 when customers will be greeted by a completely redecorated business. It will be open to 3pm on Christmas Eve.

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Plans for rally are already in top gear

ORGANISERS of the popular vintage and veteran steam rally at the Oswestry Showground are already in top gear for the 2014 event.

Thousands of people visit the two day Clwyd Veteran and Vintage Machinery Society event at Park Hall.

Next year the rally will be on June 14 and 15 with the gates open at 10am both days. Organisers say it's a perfect day out for Father's Day.

Spokeswoman, Jean Smith said: "There are steam and miniature engines, vintage tractors and horticultural and garden machinery.

"We have commercial vehicles, military vehicles and vintage and veteran cars as well as a display of classic camper vans.

"There are vintage caravans, motorcycles and pedal cycles, steam organs and stationary engines."

Ring and static events including a medieval re-enactment, heavy horses and a fun dog show and other attractions include trade and autojumble stands refreshments and a bar.

Weekend camping is available, the showground has a new shower block.

See **www.cvvms.co.uk** to have a stand or exhibit call (01978) 756354, email clive.margaret@talktalk.net or Jean 01244 818918, email jeansmith90@live.co.uk

Campaigners delighted that station access work date set

A TRAIN station will finally be getting disabled access after almost 10 years of campaigning.

Work is due to start on the £1.2million improvements to Chirk Station in January and it should be completed by June.

Christine Ashford, from the Friends of Chirk Station group, said she was delighted as the group has been pushing for better access to the station since 2004.

"We have constantly lobbied, as a Friends Group, for disabled access at our station," she said. "We are delighted that finally this project will be started and our station will truly be accessible to all."

by Pam Kingsley

In 2011 Chirk Station was granted almost £800,000 from the Department of Transport, which was be topped up to £1.2million by the Welsh Assembly.

But the money was awarded on the condition that the work must be completed by March 31, 2014.

Plans have now been finalised for a new ramped footbridge to link the north and southbound platforms.

Mrs Ashford said the improvements would be welcomed.

"The south to north platform has a very steep staircase and is a major problem for people with disabilities," she said.

"The stairs are as much of a problem to older people with infirmities or indeed parents or grandparents who have to try to negotiate the steps with babies and children in buggies.

"Mums with buggies will be delighted along with all others who find the 24 steep steps leading from platform 1 to the road too difficult to negotiate.

"We responded to the Assembly's enquiry for accessibility of railway stations in Wales with our own report in 2011 and since that time have kept up the pressure. Now, at long last, it's about to happen.

"As next year Friends of Chirk Station will be 10 years old, I can't think of a better way of celebrating what has been a really successful and happy project at our station."

Tree of Light switched on outside store

THE Rotary Club of Oswestry began its run up to Christmas in style with the switch on of its Tree of Light outside Sainsbury's.

Around 150 people of all ages gathered around the tree to sing carols, accompanied by the Ifton Colliery Band.

Rotarian Mike Jones, event organiser, read a poem before the countdown and Wagih El Masry, professor at the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries turned on the lights.

A bucket collection was made for the Tree of Light charities, Hope House, the Air Ambulance, Cricket for People with Disabilities and the Special Olympics, which will be added to the total already donated.

Mr Jones said: "Oswestry Rotary Club thank Sainsbury's, our business sponsors but most of all the public who have supported the Tree of Light so generously."

Children boost cancer fund

Parent support group mum Siobahn Price, Lily Price, Reggie Jones, Katie Lloyd, Callum Marquis, appeal director Gwilym Owen, Owen Conover, Sebastian Ridgeway and nursery nurse Tracey Evans.

MORE than 60 pre-school children took part in a sponsored buggy push, toddle or bounce to raise £484 for the Oswestry Bone Cancer Centre Appeal.

The children, aged from six months to four years, all go to the Peter Pan Day Nursery at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Siobhan Price, hospital staff member, parent and member of the nursery's parent support group, said: "Our parent support group works closely with the nursery manager so parents can put forward ideas, share nursery news and child friendly events on our online newsletter and organise fundraising activities for the nursery charitable funds."

Woman is fined for assault on police

A TRAINEE nurse who tried to break up a fight involving her brother hit a female police officer in the mouth, a court heard.

Sophie Hall, 20, will now have to find a new career Shrewsbury Magistrates Court was told. Her conviction for assault means she can no longer continue her training at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Mrs Abbie Hill, prosecuting, said: "On October 26 2013, officers were called to a disturbance outside the Boar's Head in Oswestry.

"They saw two men fighting. The defendant appeared and started shouting and swearing at the men to stop fighting and saying one was her brother.

"She launched herself towards the men and punched PC Bullock in the mouth."

Mr Stephen Scully, for Hall, said his client did not punch the officer intentionally but caught her with her false nails.

"She was hoping to qualify as a nurse at the Royal Agnes Hunt but now, due to having a criminal record, will have to rethink her choice of career."

Hall, who admitted assaulting a police officer, was ordered to pay £100 compensation, fined £115, and ordered to pay costs of £85 and a £20 surcharge.

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Man had a share in drugs conspiracy

A CHIRK man is among a group of six men who have been further remanded in custody after admitting charges of conspiring to supply cocaine.

Jason Maddock-Jones, 23, of Highfields, Chirk, admitted conspiring with five co-accused to supply the class A drug between February and September this year.

Maddock-Jones appeared at Mold Crown Court with Simon Neal Roberts, 39, of Dolydd Lane, Cefn Mawr; Wayne David McKenzie, 38, of Parkside Road, Manchester; David Keith Taylor, 54, of Pentre Gwyn, Wrexham; David Arfon Jones, 29, of East Avenue in Ruabon and Phillip Burke, 43, of Dursley, Whiston.

Roberts also admitted a money laundering charge.

McKenzie pleaded not guilty to money laundering.

Judge Niclas Parry adjourned the case for a plea and case management hearing in respect of McKenzie.

The judge said that it was a very serious matter but said that maximum credit would be given in sentencing for the guilty pleas.

The arrests follow an extensive police operation which includes observations and covert listening devices. Drugs and large amounts of cash are said to have been seized.

Lord Harlech. Did he propose to Jackie Kennedy?

Jackie Onassis – as she then was – walking to church at the funeral of Lord Harlech in Oswestry in 1985, along with Senator Edward Kennedy. Also on the picture is his sister Jean Smith, with nephew Mark Shriver, left. Lord Harlech had been killed in a car crash near Shrewsbury.

The widowed Jackie Kennedy was the subject of media fascination.

Milestone sparks memories

THE 50th anniversary commemorations of the assassination of President Jack Kennedy have revived memories of a visit by Kennedy to Oswestry in the late 1950s or early 1960s.

by Toby Neal

But it is claimed that in the years after the president's tragic death, a yet deeper connection was forged – which could potentially have resulted in the widowed Jackie Kennedy, one of the most glamorous women of her era, moving to the Shropshire town.

Some older folk in Oswestry area have memories of the Kennedys coming to Oswestry, although the detail is vague and the exact date unknown.

David Ormsby-Gore, the Oswestry MP – he later became Lord Harlech – was a friend of Jack Kennedy and in 1961 stepped down as MP when he became Ambassador to the United States, where he was a regular guest at the White House. He was devastated when his friend the president was gunned down.

He and his wife Sylvia remained friends with widowed Jackie but in May 1967 Lord Harlech was hit by tragedy when Lady Harlech was killed in a car crash in Wales.

Now before going further, it must be borne in mind that the media of the day was fascinated with Jackie Kennedy and it was inevitable that she should be surrounded by gossip and speculation. But the press in 1967 observed that the couple, who had both been through tragedy, were spending time in each other's company.

The media interest became more intense when Jackie Kennedy visited Cambodia.

J.W. Cohn cabled to the Fairchild News Service: "Those close to the Kennedy party indicate that, of all her travelling companions, she appears to be most 'sympathique' with Lord Harlech. When reporters and photographers are not around, she is frequently in his company and they appear to have many mutual interests."

The pros and cons of a marriage were discussed in the press.

Whatever the truth is of the nature of their friendship, they did not marry, and the story which has been reported since in some newspapers is that Jackie accepted Lord Harlech's offer of marriage during that visit to Cambodia, but then changed her mind, and famously married instead Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis.

After Jackie's death in 1994 a "Harlech relative" was quoted as saying: "Everyone in the family knew how much in love they were... She said, 'I truly loved him. My stupid mistake, my ruined pride, has haunted me for 20 years. If only I had said yes.' "

This however contrasts with Lord Harlech's entry in Wikipedia, which says: "After President Kennedy's assassination there were rumours of a romance between Ormsby-Gore and Jacqueline Kennedy. These were not likely to have been believed by the family."

Students study to teach in gap year

SIXTH form students at a girls' school have been preparing for a gap year overseas.

The nine Year 13 girls at Moreton Hall school in Oswestry completed a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (Tefl) training course at Moreton Hall's international study centre.

Natalya Kahn, Georgina Latham, Josie Mason, Kitty Robinson, Helena Eastman, Livvy Stapleton, Pippa Holmes, Natasha Holmes and Yi Jae Kim were presented with their certificates this week by Elyse Conlon, who organised the course.

The course was designed to give the girls practical and theoretical training in teaching before they go to teach abroad in their gap year.

Netball team win county honour

OSWESTRY School got their netball season off to a flying start by winning the County netball plate tournament.

The U16 team scooped top honours in the North Shropshire County Plate Tournament. The team had to fend of competition from William Brooks School, the Marches School, Church Stretton School and Concorde College.

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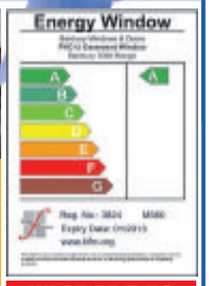

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THE ARTS

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Artist's fun caricatures and scenes go on display

Catherine Bynon with some of Marcus Goldson's watercolour exhibits of 'Reflections of Northern and Eastern Africa' on show at the Dining Rooms in Oswestry.

THE WORK of an artist with truly international credentials has gone on display in Oswestry.

Advertisement feature

Kenyan-born Marcus Goldson, who has been based in Budapest in Hungary for 20 years, has five examples of his work put on show at the Dining Rooms restaurant in Oswestry.

The exhibition has been organised by his aunt, Catherine Bynon from Weston Rhyn, and it will be on show throughout Christmas and into early January.

Miss Bynon said her nephew had forged an international reputation through his art. She said Mr Goldson first displayed art in the town about 10 years ago at its heritage centre and has maintained connections with Oswestry since.

Miss Bynon said he was hoping to come to Oswestry in December to take a look at the exhibition himself and meet family and friends.

She said: "He has become well known and has been on TV and radio in Hungary.

"Much of his work reflects life in Budapest and in Hungary.

"They are often caricatures which depict Budapest and they reflect the sense of humour in Hungary. He was born in Kenya in 1969 and he has studied the anatomy of animals so some of his work is about that.

"His work exaggerates features of animals to make the work interesting.

"This is the first time he has had his own exhibition in Oswestry and the plan is for him to come over from Hungary over Christmas to see his relatives and come to Oswestry.

"The work on display is eye-catching and includes large depictions of a rhino and a giraffe.

"It is called Reflections of Northern and Eastern Africa."

Other work on show includes a depiction of a Tunisian garden and a view of Alexandria.

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GIG GUIDE 01691 668094

Top choir to sing some Carols by Candlelight

LOCAL choir The Cantiones will be getting everyone in the Christmas mood on Saturday with an evening of music and song.

The event which is being held at Christ Church, Oswestry, is called Carols by Candlelight and will feature a wide selection of traditional Christmas carols.

The programme for the concert includes Britten: Ceremony of Carols and items from the Rachmaninov Christmas Vespers.

Audience members will also be encouraged to join in on some songs, and there will be wine and mince pies for refreshments.

Since being formed in 1982 by Mike Smith, The Cantiones have since grown and now have 36 members, many of whom have been with the choir since its humble beginnings.

The group is currently under the music direction of Gerry Howe and is considered one the top choirs in Shropshire.

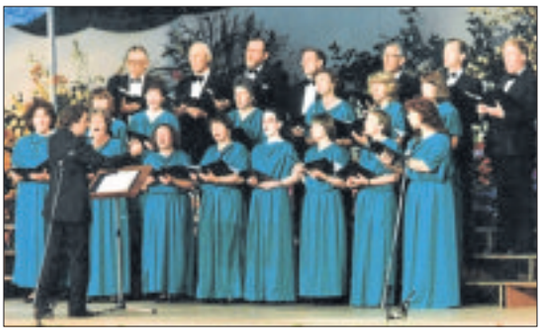
The concert starts at 7.30pm with tickets costing £9.

Today (Thursday) is your last chance to see the National Theatre Live's Anniversary screening of 2011's Frankenstein broadcast.

The screening, which will be held in the Attfield Theatre, comes courtesy of KinoKulture and will bring to a close the National Theatre's Encore series.

To celebrate turning 50 the National Theatre has been showing repeat broadcasts of its most celebrated productions from the last few years.

Directed by Danny Boyle, Frankenstein stars Jonny Lee Miller as Frankenstein and Benedict Cumberbatch as the monster, both of whom won numerous awards for their performances.



The Cantiones will be getting everyone in the Christmas spirit.

GIG GUIDE with Edward Roberts

The screening starts at 7pm with tickets costing £12 for adults and £10 for under 16s. For more information ring 08452 500517.

If you're looking for something to do in Welshpool on Friday night, then head along to The Royal Oak as local singer songwriter Rob Picken will be performing.

You can expect original songs as well as some classic covers, there will also be support from up and coming talent Ollie Jones. The gig starts at 10pm and is free entry.

The Lowfield Inn, Marton, will have music from Graham Reece on Friday night. The gig starts at 8pm and is free entry.

The Golden Lion Hotel, Llanymynech will be holding its weekly open mic night on Monday.

All sorts of musicians are welcome to come along, whether you play folk, rock, pop or anything in between.

So if you fancy yourself as a bit of a singer songwriter or just looking for some live music on a Monday night, then make sure to head over. It starts at 8pm and is free entry.

The following night (Tuesday) it's Blues Jam Night at the Golden Lion. If you haven't been before it's essentially an open mic dedicated to the blues. It starts at 8pm and is free entry.

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Orchard aims to help boost wildlife

A NEW orchard has been planted in Llanfyllin in a bid to help wildlife thrive.

Llanfyllin Town Council and the town's primary school have teamed up with Powys County Council to plant the orchard on an open space beside the River Cain in the town centre.

As well as growing apples, cherries, pears and damsons, it is hoped the orchard will encourage wildlife.

Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Powys County Council's cabinet member responsible for countryside services, said orchards were once a common feature in Powys towns and countrysides, but have been disappearing over recent years.

She said pupils have been studying their environment at school and, thanks to funding from Powys County Council, Natural Resources Wales and Llanfyllin Town Council, have given them a chance to make a difference.

She said: "The trees have been specifically chosen for hardiness and good eatability. Planting these trees in our local open spaces where they can be enjoyed and benefit biodiversity has to be a good thing."

Huw Ellis, headteacher of Llanfyllin Primary School, added: "Planting the orchard is a great way for our children to learn all about their environment."

Light and bright can be most inspiring during December

FOR me, as an artist and naturalist, December can perhaps be summed up in one rather surprising word – light.

Even given the dark mornings and early evenings, the light of a crisp winter morn can be some of the most inspiring, whether you chose to capture it on canvas or not.

But there are also some unexpectedly bright colours to emerge this month, both amongst the flora and fauna of Shropshire. Amid the plants, red seems to be a very popular, not to mention apt colour, this month. Without the spectacular dawn or afternoon light Spindle trees, with their gaudy pinky-red and orange fruits, still stand out starkly against an otherwise beige and dull landscape.

Joining the Spindle and Holly reds are also the more overlooked Scarlet Pimpernel. This is an attractive little plant for many reasons. Chiefly of course because of its name sake, that showy yet delicate scarlet flower.

Winter

But rather agreeably, the Scarlet Pimpernel will only perceptibly distinguish itself from the other low lying plants when that elusive winter sun shines upon it. Thus you can merrily only enjoy this flower on a day where you yourself are enjoying the same elements it is.

Moving on to the animals that eek out a living at this difficult time of the year with a vibrant flourish and we find ourselves drawn to the water's edge. The electric blue of the kingfisher may or may not have departed your particular stomping ground of river or brook but nonetheless there are many birds that are specifically seeking out such places during the winter months.

Sticking with 'name-sakes', the Teal is a beautiful duck that, like the kingfisher, in reality should perhaps not be known for its beautiful colour. The 'teal' hues are actually just

ON THE WILD SIDE
by Ben Waddams

iridescence and are therefore a trick of the light. Teal and other ducks such as the rather ubiquitous mallards utilise special patches of speculum feathers. These feathers are quite curious. The colour of speculum (Latin for mirror) feathers differs from one species to another, and the function seems a bit obscure.

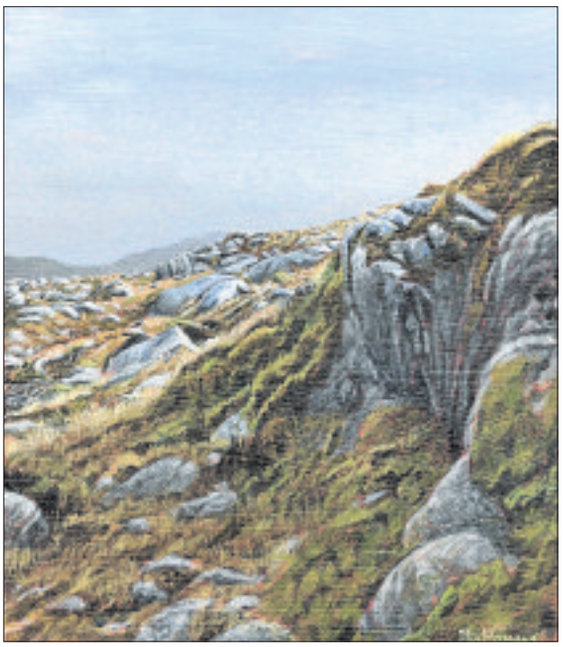
Many of the other colourful feathers found on male ducks seem to have evolved in response to the sexual preferences of females. But, breeding preference is unlikely to have influenced speculum feathers, for they appear essentially the same on each sex.

Furthermore, the speculum feathers are not particularly visible unless the duck is flying and then they are most easily seen from behind. It is therefore proposed as likely that the function is primarily that of a signal among flying members of a species so as to maintain the cohesion of a flock. Whatever will they think of next?!

However as I stared this column, the real reward for anyone interested in the rhymes and rhythms of the natural world may well find, lie me, that the true beauty of December lies simply in the unique winter light that graces the landscapes around us for much of the day.

No matter whether it is bouncing off spindles, pimpernels, kingfishers, ducks or simply rocks, earth and tussocky grass, it's worth braving the cold.

Come and see Ben and his artwork at the Made in Shropshire Christmas Fair, Shrewsbury Square, this Saturday.



Winter Hillside **– a study, by Ben Waddams**

Council is asked to reconsider extra costs

CHIRK and the Ceiriog Valley are taking on extra costs from the unitary authority that urban areas seem to be ducking out of, councillors have said.

Town councillors in Chirk have agreed to take over the cost of running the play areas in the town and also the lighting after they were told that Wrexham Council Borough Council was having to make £35 million in cuts.

There were also fears the unitary authority would stop paying for public toilets across the borough, with community councils being ask to foot the bill.

Now councillors have discovered that not all community councils have agreed to stump up for the services.

At a meeting earlier this year Chirk Town Council general purposes committee agreed in principle to take over costs of the lighting and maintaining the playgrounds in the border town.

It will mean an extra £9.50 in council tax for Chirk householders.

Speaking at Chirk Town Council's meeting, Councillor John Vant said it had become apparent not all community councils were being asked to take over the jobs. "We should look again at our agreement in principle," he said.

"We accepted this on the basis of fairness but this is not fair."

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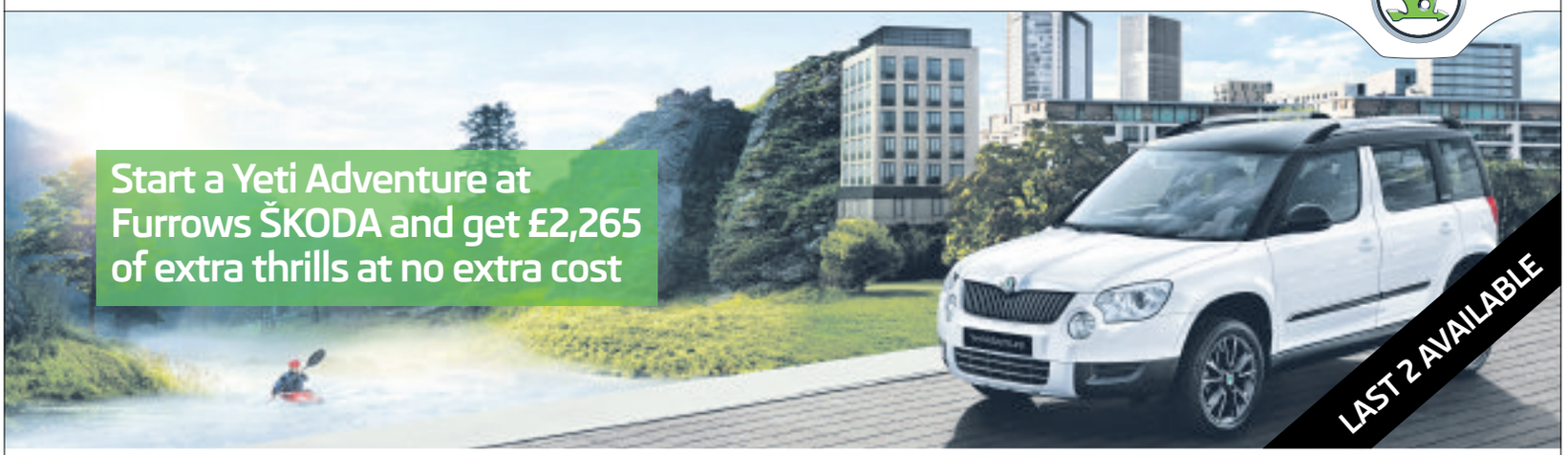

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA Yeti Adventure 2.0 TDI 140PS 4x4 and 2.0 TDI 110PS 2X4 respectively: Urban 43.5 (6.5) and 44.1 (6.4), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1) and 64.2 (4.4), Combined 50.4 (5.6) and 55.4 (5.1). CO_2 emissions for the Yeti Adventure 2.0 TDI 110PS and 2.0 TDI 140PS 4x4 respectively: 149 and 134g/km. Standard EU Test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Super Swedes making their mark on European market

Volvo sales are really taking off in Europe and the V60 is a prime example of why the Swedish brand is growing in popularity.

Sales in Europe grew significantly in November, boosted by positive developments in several markets such as Italy and Spain where Volvo Cars performed better than the market.

The third best performer was the V60 and if you are looking for a versatile estate the D2 Business could be right up your street with the same model and chassis options as the saloon. The difference is that it's huge.

This Scandinavian beauty is packaged well – in fact it's really a wagon with a coupe-like appearance that will appeal to the large family user or the businessman looking for space.

Volvo are renowned for their safety features and the V60 comes with a five star crash rating from Euro NCAP

All the dashboard controls are easy to locate and operate

Outstanding

The rear seats can be folded down in three 40/20/40 segments to reveal 430 litres of load space. One of the outstanding features sees integrated booster cushions for children which pop up from the seat base giving a safe ride height for children from three years and upwards.

Inside the cabin there really is an air of quality about the V60. All the controls are easy to find and operate and the high driving position ensures good driver and passenger visibility.

Once on the road the ride is firm but I continually found myself struggling to get to grips with the steering, often having to re-adjust while cornering. And I don't think that was down to the driver.

Volvo has always had a reputation for producing safe cars and the V60 is no exception with six airbags and stability control as standard, along with Volvo's City Safe system, which detects objects in front of the car preventing low-speed impacts.

An optional Driver Support Pack includes a Pedestrian Detection System, which can also recognise a person in the road, adaptive cruise control, lane-departure warning and blind-spot information.

Little wonder then that the car achieved a five-star crash rating from Euro NCAP.

The V60 comes in Business Edition, SE, SE Lux, R-Design and R-Design Lux trims.

Alloy wheels, cruise control and climate control are standard on all, with SE adding smarter trim, Bluetooth and an uprated stereo. SE Lux adds leather, electric seats and active headlights. R-Design trims add stiffer suspension.

The test car came with Start/Stop as standard and a list price of £20,995 but options of 17"alloys, multimedia, rain sensors, security pack, winter pack with ABL and speed dependent steering boosted the cost up to £24,150.

That's a better deal than you would get from quite a lot of the opposition but there is still a question over Volvo re-sale values to consider.

The transverse, eight vale, four cylinder 1560cc diesel engine is fed by a six speed manual gearbox, producing a top speed of 118mph and 0-60mph in 10.7seconds. CO2 emissions are brilliant at 108g/km and you will achieve 68.9mpg on the combined cycle.

You can expect to see more V60s on the roads as Volvo continue to grow market share across Europe if this model is any guide.

Bumper to bumper

Volvo V60
Model: D2 Business Edition
Price: £24,125
Top speed: 118mph
0-60mph: 10.7secs
CO2 emissions: 108g/km
Combined fuel: 68.9mpg

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Wraps taken off tin top version of new model

Hot on the heels of the critically acclaimed F-Type Roadster, Jaguar has unveiled the hardtop version: the F-Type Coupé.

Wowing audiences at both Los Angeles and Tokyo motor shows, the tin-top version of the luxury car builder's new model is expected to hit UK showrooms next March.

The all-aluminium F-Type Coupé – the most capable, performance-focused sports car that Jaguar has ever produced – is available in three versions: F-Type R, F-Type S and the F-Type.

The car, styled by long-standing Jaguar design boss Ian Callum, gains the same V6 petrol motor as the Roadster, however there's a tweaked V8 for the flagship F-Type R boasting a considerable 542bhp.

As with the roadster, all coupés share the firm's now familiar eight-speed auto gearbox, although the R-spec car gains a number of trick electronic packages to better manage its extra power.

Being a coupé also means more boot space than the drop-top F-Type, and Jaguar engineers are promising an even more engaging drive thanks to the coupé body's added stiffness.

"The F-Type Coupé provides its driver with a unique sports car experience. It combines seductive design with cutting-edge technology and performance which is truly breathtaking. Engaging, precise, intuitive and alive – it is the definitive sports coupé," said Phil Popham, group marketing director, Jaguar Land Rover

Start saving now, as the base coupé will be priced from £51,235 while the range-topping R model will run to £85,000.

Good rates on offer to buy all-new crossover

Suzuki has some good news this winter for customers looking to purchase a new SX4 S-Cross, the brand's all new Crossover model.

Launched in October, the SX4 S-Cross is available from £14,999 for the SZ3 1.6-litre petrol model with manual transmission and Suzuki is offering some very competitive PCP (Personal Contract Plan) and PCH (Personal Contract Hire) rates to help new car buyers looking for the best payment option to suit them.

Taking the SZ3 model as an example with its high standard specification of seven airbags, cruise control with speed limiter, air conditioning, 16-inch alloy wheels and Daytime Running Lights, Suzuki is offering a low rate PCP of 4.9 per cent APR over a 43 month period until the end of this year with payments of just £189 per month.

Move up the range to the SZ4 with Dual Zone automatic air conditioning, Bluetooth connectivity, front fog lamps and rear privacy glass as standard and payments are just £10 per month extra over the same term.

Retained value is positive too as established trade publication Glass's Guide has listed an average residual value across the S-Cross range of 41 per cent after three years and 60,000 miles.

Lower mileage owners can be ensured of an even higher retained figure when it comes to replacing the car.

Personal contract hire is always a good option for business users and Suzuki Financial Services is offering a headline low rate plan of £179 per month for the SZ-T model over 42 months with a deposit of six monthly payments required. SZ-T is an ideal choice as it offers an even higher standard specification including Satellite navigation, DAB radio, rear parking camera and polished 17-inch alloy wheels.

The S-Cross is contributing well to the growth of the Suzuki brand

With regards to safety, SX4 S-Cross is one of the best new cars on the market after the recent NCAP tests with five stars awarded overall and strong scores of 92 per cent for Adult occupancy protection, 80 per cent for Child occupancy protection and 72 per cent for Pedestrian protection which was the highest score amongst any current competitor Crossover.

It is an ideal choice for families as it offers seating for five, luggage capacity of 430 litres and a low cost of ownership with CO2 emissions of 127g/km 1.6-litre petrol (manual transmission) and just 110g/km for the 1.6-litre DDiS model.

Real World fuel economy has been commented as 'exceptional' by several of the Automotive magazines with this week's Auto Express voting it second place in their Top 10 most efficient cars tested in 2013, the S-Cross DDiS achieved an average consumption of 59.6mpg.

The S-Cross is contributing well to the growth of the brand already at almost 1,000 sales since launch and Suzuki is currently the fastest growing top 20 car manufacturer in the UK with strong sales momentum currently 30.4 per cent up year on year. This week, Suzuki passed the 30,000 unit milestone and the projection is to close 2013 at 33,000 units, an increase of 8,000 over 2012.

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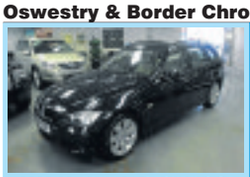

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SPORT

Berriew's hopes are dashed by late leveller

BERRIEW missed a chance of turning up the pressure in the race for the Spar Mid Wales League division one crown after being held 2-2 at home to leaders Carno.

The draw keeps Mike Pearce's side in fourth spot, six points adrift of the pace-setters, but they would have been disappointed after twice taking the lead in the first half through Elliott Jones and Rhydian Morris only to be denied by a last-gasp goal.

In-form WATERLOO ROVERS, lying second, also suffered frustration after basement strugglers Dolgellau pulled out of their trip to Maesydre due to a lack of players.

It is hoped that with two weeks off, Dolgellau will be able to fulfil their next scheduled fixture at Llansantffraid Village on Saturday, December 21.

FOUR CROSSES eased to a 4-0 home win over faltering Bow Street, with Jamie Evans, Owain Wilcock and Andrew Webb on target along with an own goal to take their side up to seventh position.

Cement

WELSHPOOL TOWN lost ground after being edged out 2-1 at Tywyn, but fortunes are looking up for LLANSANTFFRAID VILLAGE who climbed above Pool into eighth spot in the table with a fine 6-2 victory at Builth Wells.

Aberaeron edged out Aberystwyth University 3-2 courtesy of goals from Rhodri Edwards, Gareth Evans and Rhydian Davies to cement their place among the leading pack.

Batting to escape the basement places, DYFFRYN BANW picked up a useful point in their 3-3 draw at home to MONTGOMERY.

After taking the lead through Aled Davies, they found themselves 3-1 down with Nick Rawlings, George Mytton and Sam Prince on the mark for Monty.

But Banw clawed their way back to earn parity courtesy of Geraint Roberts and Tom Foulkes, with the point enough to lift them out of the bottom two places on goal difference.

PLACINGS

Spar Mid Wales League

Division one: Aberaeron 3, Aberystwyth Uni 2; Berriew 2, Carno 2; Builth Wells 3, Llansantffraid Village 6; Dyffryn Banw 3, Montgomery 3; Four Crosses 4, Bow Street 0; Tywyn Bryncrug 2, Welshpool 1.

Division two: Abermule 2, Presteigne 3; Bont 1, Rhosgoch 3; Machynlleth 3, Knighton 0.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carno	15	12	1	2	42	18	37
Waterloo	17	10	4	3	54	22	34
L'drindod Wells	11	11	0	0	60	6	33
Berriew	13	10	1	2	50	14	31
Llanfair Utd	13	10	1	2	45	14	31
Aberaeron	15	9	2	4	33	18	29
Four Crosses	15	6	3	6	42	37	21
Llansantffraid	17	6	1	10	40	48	19
Welshpool	18	7	1	10	36	45	19
Montgomery	15	5	2	8	21	41	17
Tywyn/Bryncrug	10	5	0	5	22	25	15
Builth Wells	16	4	2	10	43	49	14
Bow Street	15	4	1	10	19	52	13
Dyffryn Banw	11	2	3	6	26	34	9
Aber Uni	13	3	0	10	24	36	9
Dolgellau	16	0	0	16	9	107	0

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rhosgoch	9	8	0	1	39	12	24
Knighton	9	4	4	1	24	11	16
Hay St Marys	7	3	3	1	21	13	12
Presteigne	7	3	3	1	17	11	12
Machynlleth	5	4	0	1	13	8	12
N'bridge-on-Wye	8	2	2	4	12	24	8
Abermule	7	2	1	4	10	11	7
Talgarth	6	2	1	3	9	11	7
Kerry	8	0	3	5	15	31	3
Bont	10	0	3	7	8	36	3

E R JENKINS CUP
POOL A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hay St Marys	4	3	0	1	11	8	9
Rhosgoch	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
Knighton	4	1	2	1	6	8	5
Presteigne	4	1	1	2	6	9	4
Talgarth	3	0	1	2	6	8	1

E R JENKINS CUP
POOL B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Machynlleth	4	3	1	0	15	4	10
Abermule	4	2	0	2	13	12	6
Kerry	4	1	2	1	11	8	5
N'bridge-on-Wye	3	1	1	1	7	7	4
Bont	3	0	0	3	4	19	0

Wellington a kick in the teeth for Morda

MORDA United remain within striking range of the Mercian Regional League premier division leaders despite being held 1-1 at Wellington Amateurs Reserves, ***writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.***

Looking to build on the previous week's fine 4-2 win against local rivals Weston Rhyn, United dominated the first half and went in one up at the interval through a Mike Lloyd goal from a corner.

But they took their foot off the gas in the second period, and the Amateurs hit back to earn a share of the spoils with an equaliser eight minutes from the end.

The Weston Road men started in dominant mood and took the lead when defender Lloyd found the net from close in following a fifth minute corner from Shin Miah.

Morda continued to boss the encounter, but for all their possession and neat football, they could not increase their lead.

They should have added a second 10 minutes before half time when a ball in behind the defence was finished by Gareth Lewis but the linesman somewhat harshly flagged for offside.

Three minutes before the break, Morda had keeper Tony Davies to thank for maintaining their lead by tipping a goalbound shot over the bar.

After the break, the visitors looked complacent and the Wellington hosts took advantage as they started to pose a threat going forward.

Sam Litchfield was introduced to try and get a foothold and that worked as Morda had a spell of dominance but they were let down by the final pass or bad touch.

And the visitors where made to pay eight minutes from time when, despite some desperate defence that saw Davies pull off a great save, the Ams finally squeezed the ball home through Josh Thomas.

Morda tried to find a winner but again could not get that final pass right and in the end had to settle for a draw, much to the disappointment of boss Craig Rogers.

Total control

"It feels like a defeat if I'm honest," he said. "We were in total control in the first half, it was almost too easy for us. I think if we had got the second goal, it was game over but the longer it stayed 1-0, Ams grew and knew they had a chance.

"We were totally complacent in the second half and got what we deserved in the end. That is the worse half of football we have played this season."

This result leave Morda just three points behind leaders Oakengates Athletic who have one game in hand.

With title chasing rivals Telford Juniors losing at the weekend, Rogers' side are still well poised for a title assault in the New Year.

Morda have no further fixtures until after the Christmas period, with a return to action on Saturday, January 4 when they are due to entertain AFC Bridgnorth Town Reserves in the Premier Division Cup (1.30).

WESTON RHYN, without a game last weekend, resume their action with a home tie with Allscott as they look to push up the table.

PLACINGS

Mercian Regional Football League

Shropshire Challenge Cup round two: Brown Clee 4, Hodnet 2 (AET); Donnington Sports & Social 5, AFC Wellington 2; Madeley Sports 2, Oakengates Athletic 6; Rock Rovers 5, Wroxeter Rovers 4 (AET).

Premier division: Church Stretton 2, Telford Juniors 1; Ketley Bank Utd 1, Shifnal Utd 0; Prees 2, Ketley Town 1; Wellington Amateurs Reserves 1, Morda Utd 1; Whitchurch Alport 1, Bridgnorth Reserves 2.

Division one: Clee Hill 4, Wrockwardine Wood Juniors 1; Meole Brace 1, Dawley Town 1; Oakengates Rangers 5, Oswestry Villa 0; Shawbury Utd Reserves 0, Childs Ercall 9; Shrewsbury Utd 0, Bishops Castle Town 11.

Division two: Albrighton Juniors 4, Shrewsbury Utd Reserves 0; Claverley 2, AFC Broseley 3; Highley Miners Welfare 4, Denso 3; Impact Utd 1, Ludlow Town Colts 0; Spalaig Britannia 0, Oswestry Villa Reserves 0; Wrockwardine Wood 3, Market Drayton Tigers 1.

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	AGD	Pts
Oakengates Ath	14	8	3	36	17	19
FC Hodnet	15	8	5	22	20	2
Ketley Bank Utd	15	7	4	24	24	0
Morda United	15	7	5	47	33	14
Telford Juniors	14	7	4	34	23	11
Whitchurch Alp R	16	6	4	30	23	7
Church Stretton	15	6	6	27	25	2
Ketley Town	13	6	5	21	24	-3
Prees	14	6	7	24	27	-3
Wellington Ams R	14	5	5	23	28	-5
Shifnal United 97	13	5	5	23	19	4
Weston Rhyn	15	5	7	28	34	-6
Madeley Sports	14	5	7	20	28	-8
Bridgnorth T Res	16	2	9	21	39	-18
Allscott	15	1	8	13	29	-16

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	AGD	Pts
Bishops Castle T	16	13	3	64	13	51
Oswestry Town	15	11	1	56	12	44
Childs Ercall	13	11	2	71	9	62
Dawley Town	16	8	5	47	37	10
Rock Rovers FC	12	8	2	55	22	33
Wroxeter Rovers	10	7	0	40	10	30
Harwood Utd Res	14	7	5	45	19	26
Clee Hill	13	6	2	34	20	14
Oswestry Villa	16	6	8	38	36	2
Oakengates Rgrs	16	5	8	28	45	-17
Brown Clee	14	5	8	37	35	2
Wrock Wood Jnrs	17	4	11	22	59	-37
Meole Brace	13	4	8	24	66	-42
Shrewsbury Utd	17	3	13	26	101	-75
Shawbury Utd R	16	2	12	16	71	-55
Hopesgate United	14	0	12	19	67	-48

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	AGD	Pts
AFC Broseley	17	15	0	92	17	75
Wrock Wood	17	14	1	87	24	63
Impact	15	10	2	61	26	35
AFC Wellington	15	10	4	85	32	53
Donnington S & S	14	10	4	70	34	36
Market D'ton Tgrs	15	9	5	68	31	37
Claverley	15	9	6	63	26	37
Ludlow T Colts	16	5	9	59	43	16
Oswestry Villa R	16	4	10	17	46	-29
Spalaig Britannia	16	4	10	22	77	-55
Albrighton Juniors	14	4	9	35	55	-20
Highley Miners W	15	2	10	33	56	-23
Shrewsbury Utd R	15	2	13	20	94	-74
Denso	16	0	15	15	166	-151

Eagles miss Marple chance and still winless on travels

RUGBY
by John Bridgwater

OSWESTRY are still searching for their first away of the season in rugby's South Lancs and Cheshire Two after slipping to a 22-14 loss at Marple – with the Eagles having now lost seven on their travels, while drawing the other.

Another poor start by the visitors – becoming a regular problem on their travels – saw them concede a converted try after losing the ball from their line-out.

They regrouped, and a sustained period of possession in the Marple half saw them put a concerted spell of pressure on the home line without any reward after several near misses, including Tom Treasure being released for a certain try only for the referee to adjudge a forward pass.

After somehow surviving, Marple stepped up their game and applied pressure in the Eagles' half, which led to them setting up several phases before scoring an unconverted try from close range for a 12-0 half-time lead.

Oswestry once more applied more pressure after the interval, and repeated good phases saw them inch closer to the line, before Rich McFie carried well and gave quick ball for Mike Keaveney to plough through the defenders to score, with Dan Williams converting.

Pressure

The Eagles continued to pressure the home side, before another pass was dubiously deemed forward to halt their momentum.

Marple used this to their advantage and began to pressure the visitors, and looked to have gained a good overlap before a crunching tackle by Luca Owen-Youens stopped them in their tracks, and also caused his opposing player to limp off.

However, the home side continued to press and earned a penalty on the 22 metre line, which their kicker duly converted.

Oswestry then gained a penalty within their own half, but an attempt to put the ball wide saw them lose the ball and quick phases from the home side ended with their centre brushing off tackles to score in the corner, with their fly-half adding the extras.

This saw the Eagles fall more than two scores behind, but it shook them into life, with some fine phases following, with good carries by debutant Luke Roberts, led by captain Andy Smith and Keaveney.

However, Poor handling from the visitors saw the home side clear their lines once more, but the pressure continued. More phases gave Oswestry a sniff of an overlap, but once more handling errors stopped them in their tracks with time running out.

Finally, the forwards and the backs both showed handling skills that had previously been lacking to set up a ruck five metres out, and Gaz Ellis scored, driven on by old head Dave Richardson at the last play of the game, with Williams converting once more.

The final score was 22-14, leaving the Eagles one point short of a bonus point, and man of the match was the ever reliable Keaveney.

On Saturday, Oswestry face a real test against high flying visitors Liverpool Collegiate when they will be looking to keep intact their good record at home where they have won all six outings this term.

OSWESTRY II lost 24-19 at home to Macclesfield IV in their last action of the year in the North West League division four (south).

PLACINGS

English Clubs Championships

SOUTH LANCS/CHESHIRE 2

	P	W	D	L	BP	Pts
Manchester Medics	14	13	0	1	12	64
L'pool Collegiate	14	13	0	1	11	63
Bowdon	14	12	0	2	10	58
Ormskirk	13	10	1	2	7	49
Vagabonds	14	8	0	6	7	39
Southport	14	9	0	5	5	36
Oswestry	14	6	1	7	7	33
Moore	14	5	1	8	8	30
Port Sunlight	14	5	1	8	7	29
Orrell	14	4	0	10	6	22
Marple	14	4	0	10	4	20
Dukinfield	14	2	2	10	3	15
Ramsey	14	3	0	11	2	14
Wallasey	13	0	0	13	2	-8

Swalec League

DIVISION ONE N

	P	W	D	L	Dif	Pts
Bala RFC	8	7	0	1	55	30
Bethesda RFC	9	6	0	3	56	29
Caernarfon RFC	8	6	0	2	50	28
Pwllheli RFC	8	5	0	3	149	27
Ruthin RFC	9	5	0	4	18	26
DenbighRFC	9	5	0	4	-3	24
Nant Conwy RFC	9	4	0	5	-34	20
COBRA	10	3	0	7	-120	15
Dolgellau RFC	9	2	0	7	-55	13
Bro Ffestiniog RFC	9	1	0	8	-116	8

Welshpool boss Rhos for a superb victory

Getting stuck in – action from Welshpool's fine 22-19 win over high-flying Rhos at Maesydre and (below) the Pool defence grabs hold of the visiting scrum-half after the ball comes out. Pictures: Gary Williams.

COBRA still waiting to strike

COBRA are still searching for their first win on their travels after suffering a narrow 25-18 loss at Caernarfon to remain deep in the basement places in rugby's Swalec League division one (north), ***writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.***

The Meifod side have now lost all six away games in the league this season, but could take heart from an encouraging display despite several players missing.

They dominated the scrums, forcing their hosts to concede a string of penalties, but were undone when Caernarfon got the ball out wide to make their possession count.

COBRA at least returned with a bonus point after Rhodri Davies kicked his second penalty of the game with four minutes remaining and, with several players back from university, they hope to bolster their ranks for Saturday's trip to Dolgellau in their second group game in the North Wales Cup.

The Llanfair Caereinion men crossed for two tries, one from fly-half Davies on the crash ball, while scrum-half Iwan Vaughan also went over. Davies converted one of the tries, as well as a couple of penalties.

After this Saturday's North Wales Cup clash, COBRA take a break from action until the new year when they host Bethesda on Saturday, January 4.

WELSHPOOL returned to action with a fine 22-19 win over one of the high-fliers Rhos to boost their prospects in division three (north).

In a nip-and-tuck encounter that could have gone either way, the Maesydre side produced a heartening display and were rewarded with three tries courtesy of scrum-half Joe Stranks, centre Andrew Thomas and fellow centre Dave Jones.

Dylan Walton chipped in with two conversions and a penalty to help put paid to their second placed visitors.

Their next league action is a trip to Powys rivals Llanidloes on Saturday, December 21

Will power as Llany's hot-shot is treble king

WILL MORRIS grabbed a hat-trick as Llanymynech under-11s overcame a gallant Oswestry Boys Club Colts 4-1 in a hard fought, wind affected encounter.

Matthew Leoni bagged the other, while man of the match was keeper George Lawrence who made a pair of outstanding saves in the first half to keep his side in the game.

Llany under-12s edged out Worthen Juniors 5-4, twice taking the lead in the first half with a brace from Luke Jones but the visitors hit back to 2-2 at the break.

Lloyd Edwards restored the advantage after there interval and, after Worthen had levelled yet again, slid the ball in for his brace as the hosts got their noses in front again.

With 10 minutes Worthen were back on terms with a penalty but, after Paul Negri's fine shot was tipped onto the bar, Floyd Owen chipped the winner.

Man of the match was shared with sterling performances from Toby Roberts in defence and Owen in midfield.

Llany under-14s Lions beat Saha 5-2 through Ryan Jones, fine efforts from Harri Matthews and Sam Chesworth and a brace from Zico, his second with a penalty. Man of the Match went to keeper Lewis Thomas .

In their final game of 2013, Llany under-15s overcame Up and Comer Eagles 2-1 with Josh Rowley with Kieran Matthews on target, while man of the match was captain Josh Biggs for his none stop effort in midfield.

Llanymynech under-16s suffered a 1-0 loss to leaders Worthen, a harsh defeat after the only goal of the game came when a cruel bounce off the poor surface diverted the ball in. Man of the match was Will Kynaston

SPORT

Llanrhaeadr boosted by their Fox in penalty box

LOWLY Llanrhaeadr boosted their hopes of survival in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance with a timely 2-1 win a Flint Town United – but remain bottom on goal difference.

They took the lead through Rob Fox on 11 minutes, only for the visitors to hit back immediately courtesy of Stewart Carroll.

But the villagers were not to be denied the three points when Matt Jones scored what proved the winner 10 minutes from time to give themselves real heart for the second half of the campaign.

Flint had plenty of possession, but were kept at bay by a resilient showing which Llanrhaeadr will be out to continue in Saturday's vital home clash with another of the basement strugglers, Buckley Town.

GUILSFIELD made it four straight wins with a 1-0 home success over struggling Penrhyncoch to make up ground on the leading pack.

With several of the sides above them involved in the Welsh Cup last weekend, Matt Burton's men seized their chance to consolidate their top five position with Chris Cathrall getting the only goal of the game on the stroke off half time.

The Guils had the better of the first half and the breakthrough finally came when Cathrall met Kev Renshaw's cross with a glancing header.

Penrhyncoch came more into the game in a dour second half, but struggled to find a way through against a well marshalled home defence. Saturday's fixtures.

Huws Gray Cymru Alliance (2.30): Caersws v Rhayader Town, Conwy Borough v Flint Town Utd, Holyhead v Caernarfon, Llandudno v Porthmadog, Llanrhaeadr v Buckley Town, Penrhyncoch v Llanidloes Town, Penycae v Cefn Druids, Rhydymwyn v Guilsfield.

PLACINGS

Welshpool Dominoes

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A
Sun Inn	11	9	2	52	25
Cock P/A	11	7	4	43	34
G/Dragon Butt B	11	7	4	43	34
Cock A	11	6	5	42	35
Pinewood A	11	6	5	40	37
G/Dragon Butt A	11	5	6	37	40
Pinewood A	11	5	6	37	40
Powis Arms P/Q	11	5	6	36	41
Waterloo	11	6	5	35	42
Compasses	11	4	7	33	44
Social Club	11	4	7	33	44
Celts	11	3	8	31	46

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A
Talbot	11	9	2	52	25
Breidden	11	8	3	49	28
Bowling Club	11	7	4	46	31
The Real Railway	11	7	4	44	33
Westwood Wand	11	7	4	44	33
Pinewood Dragons	11	6	5	41	36
Angel	11	5	6	36	41
Kings Head	11	5	6	36	41
Westwood	11	4	7	34	43
Muriels Bunch	11	4	7	31	46
RAF Boys	11	3	8	30	47
Wellington	11	1	10	19	58

Huws Gray Alliance

	P	W	D	L	F	A	g	Pts
Cefn Druids	16	14	2	0	54	7		44
Caernarfon Town	17	12	2	3	54	22		38
Conwy Borough	16	10	3	3	40	20		33
Caersws	14	9	2	3	33	20		29
Guilsfield	17	7	6	4	28	24		27
Llandudno	15	6	6	3	34	19		24
Holyhead Hotspur	17	6	6	5	32	29		24
Flint Town United	17	7	2	8	29	33		23
Rhydymwyn	16	7	0	9	25	40		21
Porthmadog	16	6	2	8	32	33		20
Penycae	15	5	2	8	23	34		17
Rhayader Town	17	4	4	9	22	40		16
Buckley Town	16	2	7	7	23	37		13
Penrhyncoch	18	2	5	11	21	40		11
Llanidloes Town	15	2	4	9	16	28		10
Llanrhaeadr	16	3	1	12	20	60		10

Darlington's late goal sees TNS through

Conwy Borough 1
The New Saints 2

THE New Saints booked their ticket for the last 16 of the Welsh Cup – but needed extra-time before finally seeing off battling Conwy Borough, ***writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.***

Despite looking out of sorts in an often scrappy affair, the Saints scraped through with Matty Williams giving them early advantage with a sixth minute opener.

Conwy, however, stunned the Welsh Premier leaders when Phil Doran levelled three minutes from time, before substitute Alex Darlington settled the tie in the extra period.

After going behind when Williams found the top corner following Chris Marriott's fine run, Cymru Alliance outfit Conwy fought back with Doran's goal-bound shot well saved by Paul Harrison with Ellis Healing also denied by the TNS keeper.

A difficult surface made for an untidy affair, highlighted by a succession of misplaced passes and forceful tackles, but the below-par visitors still managed to carve a couple of openings with Ryan Fraughan firing over.

Home stopper Louis Mackin was forced into good saves from Fraughan and Williams before the break and a Matty Holt mistake almost let in Greg Draper, but the Saints' striker was unable to take advantage and put his shot wide.

Conwy had a let-off when Mackin slipped but Matty Holt produced a last minute tackle to deny Draper while Harrison pulled off a terrific save to keep out a header from substitute Alan Bull.

But Doran fired home the equaliser from 10 yards with just three minutes left on the clock, and former Wigan trainee Sean Myler almost snatched a winner, but headed wide after some good work by Ryan Wignall.

For the third time in five years, an extra 30 minutes was needed to separate the sides and it took Darlington just four minutes to put the visitors back in front when slotting in from 12 yards out after being set up by Williams.

Penalty

Although Bull had a shot blocked in the second period of extra-time and Wignall went down in the box claiming a penalty, the Saints held the upper hand as their hosts tired to secure their passage to the fourth round.

■ Due to being one of Europe's most prolific scorers this season, The New Saints are rubbing shoulders with the likes of Real Madrid, Manchester City and Barcelona in the goalscoring charts.

Having netted 28 goals in only seven home games so far this season, the Saints are averaging exactly three goals a game at home, while in total the league leaders have scored 45 goals in 15 games this season.

Director of football Craig Harrison admitted that having competition in the squad is really paying dividends.

"We have had 12 different goal scorers this season which shows that we are reaping the benefits of having competition in every position," he said.

"We have tweaked our game slightly in terms of passing the ball and rotating players into different positions and we have really worked hard on improving our set plays."

Chris Seargeant – deal

Seargeant signs new contract at New Saints

THE New Saints midfielder Chris Seargeant has put pen to paper on a new 18 month contract with the Welsh Premier leaders.

Seargeant has been a consistent performer this season with three goals from midfield, and director of football Craig Harrison was delighted to retain one of his key players on a new deal after his contract was due to run out in January.

"He has got fantastic ability," he said. "We have got a lot of competition for places at the club but he has made that position his own."

Seargeant, whose father Steve made over 80 appearances for Everton during the 1970, joined TNS in 2009 after switching from rivals, Bangor City.

Llanfair cup dream over – but they gave Aber a fright

FOOTBALL
by John Bridgwater

BATTLING Llanfair United bowed out of the Welsh Cup with heads held high after giving Aberystwyth Town a run for their money before going down 4-2 at the Mount Field.

Andrew Hughes gave Llanfair hope of a surprise after putting his side ahead on the half hour, while the Spar Mid Wales League hosts carved several good chances in an excellent first half display.

However, the Welsh Premier visitors rallied with a three goal blast before half-time to turn the third round tie on its head.

Stuart Jones scored twice on 35 minutes and on the stroke of the interval, either side of a superb strike from Mark Jones (38).

Paul Griffiths pulled one back four minutes after the interval with a fine shot from outside the box to keep Llanfair in the hunt in front of a 330-strong crowd.

Chris Venables, however, settled the issue on 75 minutes but Aber's day was tarnished after having Geoff Kellaway sent off in injury time for kicking out.

It has been a terrific run for Llanfair had beaten Kerry, Builth Wells, Gwalchmai and Cymru Alliance neighbours Guilsfield to reach the third round.

Despite defeat against higher ranked Aber, which ended a run of nine straight victories, Rhys Stephens' side can take plenty of heart from their display as they return to Spar Mid Wales League division action this weekend.

Extra-time

CAERSWS pulled off an upset as they overcame higher ranked GAP Connah's Quay 2-1 after extra-time to reach the fourth round.

The Bluebirds fancied their chances of springing a surprise with their Welsh Premier visitors making the trip on the back of seven straight defeats.

And they started well with several good chances before falling behind against the run of play midway through the half when Simon Everall's strike found the net.

But the Cymru Alliance hosts continued to press after the break and levelled 10 minutes into the second period when Neil Mitchell planted a powerful header into the net from Mark Griffiths' left wing cross.

Despite their efforts, the tie went to extra time, but the Bluebirds were not to be denied with four minutes remaining as Mitchell put the ball into the box and Adam Jenkins got in front of the defence to steer his shot into the net.

It was the end of the road for LLANIDLOES TOWN who were edged out 2-1 at home to Monmouth Town despite taking a 18th minute lead through Daniel Lewis.

The Daffs paid the price for not taking their chances early on, notably when Will Thomas had a penalty saved in the fourth minute, before Lewis made the breakthrough.

But the visitors hit back before the interval with a brace from the impressive Dan McDonald on 30 and 39 minutes, and they kept a tight rein in the second half.

Oswestry School U16's have success on Plate

Having a ball – the Oswestry School Under-16-netball North Shropshire County Plate winners

OSWESTRY School's under-16 netball team got their season off to a flying start by winning the North Shropshire County Plate netball tournament.

This involved playing against William Brooks, the Marches School, Church Stretton and Concorde College. The team showed excellent linking play and strong, determined defence.

Lisa Jones, head of girls games said: "The girls played with great optimism, using space effectively which maximised their linking play and goal opportunities. I am very proud of the way they played."

Families on both sides of the oche

THERE were no big scalps in Welshpool Darts League's Bagshaw Cup with all games going the the way of the first division teams.

The only team in the last eight from the second division are the Powis Arms, Pool Quay who beat fellow second division Castle A 4-3.

The Talbot A and the Quay both recorded 7-0 victories against the Kings Head and the Crown Montgomery with The Quay's John Chapman throwing a maximum 180. The Red Lion Llanfair secured an unbeatable 4-1 win at the Wellington.

The Talbot B came away from The Goat with a 4-3 win and first division newcomers Raven A beat second division high fliers The Pheasant 5-2.

It was a bit of a family affair at The Social Club with husband and wife duo Mitch Butler and Kelly Butler on opposite sides, Stephen and Katy Bellerby against Uncle Wyn Gittins and what a game! The Social Club taking the last game to secure a 4-3 win.

In last game, second division Cock of Forden went to first division Westwood and nearly caused an upset taking the match to a last game decider.

GOLF RETURNS

HENLLE PARK

Christmas Foursomes: 1 Mark Higginson & John Evans 38pts,2 Viv Davies & Tony Davies 35pts c/b, 3 Diane Edwards & Lynn Edwards 35pts.

Christmas Pairs Betterball: 1 Jon Williams & Dave Hughes 47pts, 2 Sara & Tony Meehan 46pts, 3 Reg Collins & Derek Kellett 42pts c/b.

Christmas Greensomes: 1 Pat Roberts & Gary Owen 44pts, 2 Rae Jones & Liam Jones 42pts c/b, 3 Stuart Heathcock & Nick Flack 42pts.

LLANYMYNECH

Xmas Competition 8 Texas Scramble: A Lewis, S Williams, G Huggett & B Beckett 53.6; J Line, A Jones, D Yapp & Julia Line 55 1; M Smith, C Preece, I Brett & T Cooke 55.7.

OSWESTRY

Draw for Partners Greensomes Stableford:1 Margaret Ratcliffe & Eileen Aubrey 36pts, 2 Diane Jones & Kath Jones 34pts, 3= Sylvia Baxter & Jo Davies 31pts,Liz Harding & Geraldine Woolham 31pts.

Nine Holes: 1 Sandy Wilson & Anita Brock 18pts, 2 Margaret Evans & Pauline Davies 17pts, Dot Bowen & Eleanor Gooding 17 pts

Four Ball Better Ball Stableford: 1 Lee Pearce (10.6) & Ian Pearce (9.3) 41pts, 2 Dave Griffiths 2116 (4.8) Damian O'Brien (12.9) 40 pts (cb), 3 Christian Smith & Malcolm Smith 40 pts (cb), 4 Guy Wilson & Steve Griffiths 40pts (cb), 5 John Howard & Allen Humphries 40pts

Tinsel & Turkey 3-2-1 Stableford: 1 Pauline Davies, Julia Taylor, Enid Gill 76pts, 2 Margaret Lynch, Anne Colquhoun, Judith Thornell 75pts, 3 Margaret M Evans, Ann Garbett, Gill Spicer 71pts, 4 Tania Pearce, Celia Pearce, Marie Male 70pts.

Nine holes: 1 Pam Weston, Alma Gray, Tess Hyde 38pts, 2 Barbara Bebbington, Sandy Wilson, Gwyneth Baines-Jones 32pts.

VALE OF LLANGOLLEN

Mens American Greensomes Stableford (12 Holes): G Jones & G Ellis 31; G Purdie & D E Lewis 30; T Matthias & R Bagnall 29.

St Martins are on the up after timely Park Hall win

ST MARTINS edged themselves off the foot of the West Midlands League division one with a vital 2-1 victory against Mahal at Park Hall.

After collecting only their second league win of the season, Ryan Butcher's side will now be out to keep up the revival at Trysull on Saturday.

Last week's victory was certainly a confidence boost, and there was double delight with fellow strugglers Wolverhampton United losing 1-0 at home to Penncroft.

The game did not start too well with Mahal going ahead after just two minutes when Kevin Linten latched onto a through ball to slot past keeper Paul Foster.

The Saints steadied the ship, and had strong claims for a penalty turned down after Sam Thomas appeared to be brought down in the box on 20 minutes.

They continued to push with Karl Bailey rattling the post with a super left footed strike, but they were back on terms five minutes before half-time when debut Geraint Lloyd crossed into the box and Thomas rose well to head into the net via the underside of the bar.

After the break, they got their noses in front on 70 minutes when Graeme Kirkham was brought down, and Bailey put away the resulting penalty.

The hosts had further chances, with Kirkham hitting the post, but Mahal finished strongly only to be let down by some poor finishing as the Saints held firm for a valuable win.

Buoyed by the victory, St Martins' next aim is to move out of the bottom two, so will be keen to pick up some reward from this Saturday's trip to Trysull.

Heath bow out of Cup

DUDLESTON Heath did themselves no justice in crashing out of the County Cup with a 4-0 exit at home to Shrewsbury Sunday League Division four Red Barn Rovers.

The scoreline flattered the visitors somewhat with Dudleston more than matching their opponents in most departments apart from finding the net.

Adam Preston went closest to a reply when hitting the bar but Rovers prevailed with two penalties in their four goals.

Meanwhile, in the Roche North Shropshire Sunday League, ATHLETICO MARKET edged an exciting tussle 4-3 against Tavern at Gatacre.

Jake Northwood gave the Market a 10th minute lead, but Scott Bright levelled for The Tavern who then went ahead with a good individual goal from Jon Beckett who cut in from near the corner and cleverly chipped keeper Paul Foster.

Market were level within two minutes of the second half through Karl Bailey, but Tavern missed a good chance of regaining the lead after being awarded a penalty only for Bright's spot kick to be well saved by Foster in the Market goal.

This proved costly as Bailey then scored twice to put the visitors 4-2 up before Bright did make some amends late on scoring his second to reduce the arrears.

The game between THE OAK and THE KEYS was postponed after The Oak were unable to field a team.

Sunday fixtures: Cross Foxes v Oak Inn, The Keys v Athletico Market.

PLACINGS

Stonehouse Brewery Oswestry & District Dominoes League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Black Lion B	9	5	3	1	33	21	13
Cross Foxes	9	4	4	1	33	21	12
Penybont Inn	10	5	2	3	33	27	12
Plas Yn Dinas	10	5	2	3	33	27	12
Horseshoes	9	5	1	3	30	24	11
Black Lion A	9	5	0	4	32	22	10
Station	9	3	3	3	29	25	9
Bradford Arms	9	4	1	4	27	27	9
Top White Lion	9	2	4	3	25	29	8
White Lion	9	1	5	3	25	29	7
Black Horse	10	2	2	6	22	38	6
Barley Mow	9	3	0	6	18	36	6
Railway Tavern	9	2	1	6	21	33	5

Black Lion B 1, Black Lion A 5; Barley Mow 4, Horseshoe 2; Station 5, Railway 1; Top White 2, Black Horse 4; Bradford Arms 4, White Lion Llynclys 2; Plas Yn Dinas 4, Penybont 2.

SPORT

Rugby
Welshpool beat high-flier Rhos
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Netball
Oswestry U16s at Plate champs
Page 39

Llanfair get back to league business

BOSS Rhys Stephens could not have asked for any more from his Llanfair United side as they made the most of their big day in the Welsh Cup limelight.

Despite eventually bowing out 4-2 at home to Welsh Premier outfit Aberystwyth Town in front of a 330-strong crowd at the Mount, the performance emphasised how far the club have come in recent times.

The Spar Mid Wales League division one men took the lead with a fine finish from Andrew Hughes and, despite conceding three times before half time, made the Seasiders battle all the way in the second period.

"It was a great performance from the boys, they did the town proud," said manager Stephens whose troops suffered their first defeat in 10 outings against a side from two tiers above.

"I could not have asked for any more. To go 1-0 up was the sort of start we had dreamed of but at the end of the day, Aber had that bit more quality in front of goal, especially in those 15 minutes before half time.

"But we made them work all the way to the end, and the lads can take a lot of credit from the way they played."

It has been a terrific run for Llanfair who had beaten Kerry, Builth Wells, Gwalchmai and Cymru Alliance neighbours Guilsfield to reach the third round.

Lying fourth in the Spar League division one, they now return to league action at home to Montgomery on Saturday.

Eagles seek home help

OSWESTRY'S rugby players put their unbeaten home form to the test when they entertain title chasing Liverpool Collegiate in the South Lancs and Cheshire Two on Saturday.

Despite struggling on their travels, with last week's 22-14 loss at Marple their seventh defeat, the Eagles have been unstoppable at Granville Park with six straight wins.

But they will need to be at their best against their Liverpool visitors who, lying second in the table.

COBRA, who have also not won away this season, bid to buck the trend when they head to Dolgellau in their second group game in the North Wales Cup.

Saints put on Aber revenge mission

CRAIG Harrison admits The New Saints will have a score to settle when they take on Aberystwyth Town at Park Hall on Friday (7.45pm), ***writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.***

The Saints are in good shape to defend their Welsh Premier crown, lying two points clear with a game in hand, but the 2-2 draw at Aberystwyth earlier in the season still rankles with the club's director of football.

The league leaders were two goals up, only to be pegged back in a disastrous last 20 minutes that served as a wake-up call for the full-timers.

Since then, they have got back on track with their home form in particular looking imposing, with seven straight wins, 28 goals scored and none conceded.

Harrison still remembers that night in Aberystwyth, admitting that the manner in which his side dropped two points left a bitter taste in the mouth.

"The last 15-20 minutes was the worst we have played since I have been here as manager," he said

"The lads will remember my reaction afterwards and will want to put a few wrongs right.

"We're on a great run of form, and we want to keep that going. We have had 12 different goal scorers this season which shows that we are reaping the benefits of having competition in every position."

Aber had had little joy on their travels to TNS in the past, winning just once in 20 visits, with 17 wins for the hosts and two draws.

Harrison, meanwhile, praised his side after digging deep to book their place in the last 16 of the Welsh Cup with last Friday's 2-1 win at Conwy Borough.

"It was always going to be a tough game, they were going into the game on the back of two poor league defeats, and what better way to bounce back than to beat us," he said.

"It was difficult, but I felt we were always in control apart from the last 10-15 minutes when they threw everything at us.

"What impressed me most was that we really dug in on a poor pitch and in difficult conditions and showed a lot of character and a terrific work ethic to win ugly."

After midfielder Chris Seargeant agreed a new 18-month contract extension, Harrison says the club will be opening contract negotiations with other players in the near future.

■ TNS remain top of the Welsh Premier under-19s League after overcoming Bala Town 3-1 at Park Hall with goals from Ryan Kershaw, Taylor James and Dylan Jones.

Darlington is the top boss

HEAD coach Carl Darlington is the Welsh Premier's manager of the month after TNS went through the month with a 100 per cent record.

In the month, they won four league games and have now established a new league record of 15 consecutive victories at home.

The Saints, meanwhile, face a tough hurdle in the fourth round of the Welsh Cup tie after being paired away to Carmarthen Town.

Draw: Airbus UK Broughton v Bangor, Bala Town v Cefn Druids, Carmarthen T v The New Saints, Aberdare T v Bodedern Athletic, Monmouth Town v Porthmadog, Aberystwyth Town v Afan Lido, Newtown v Holywell Town, Caersws v Cambrian & Clydach Vale. Matches to be played weekend of February 1 and 2.

WELSHPOOL TWO GET BBC AWARDS

by Graham Breeze

RISING athletics star Adele Nicoll and sailing coach Keith Rollinson secured an incredible Welshpool double in the BBC Wales Sports Personality Of The Year Awards on Monday.

The event recognised and celebrated Welsh sporting success, and Adele's achievements in shot putt and discuss over the past 12 months were rewarded by being named Junior Sportswoman Of The Year.

Keith Rollinson, also of Welshpool, coaches disabled sailors and was rewarded for his achievements as top coach in the disabled section.

Chair of Sport Wales, professor Laura McAllister said: "The calibre of the winners and finalists really gives an indication of the standard of Welsh sport. We are a nation of just three million people but a nation where sport defines its people – it is a fundamental part of our DNA.

"These are the role models that we want the Welsh public to follow to help us bring through the next generation of young sportspeople."

Inspires

Nicoll was recognised for a stunning 12 months which saw her represent Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the World Junior Championships in Ukraine. She also set a new Welsh under-17 shot putt record, won a Welsh senior title and won England Athletics and UK School junior titles.

She said: "It was such a massive surprise I had no idea I was even nominated for the award. I'd been having interviews and photo shoots for Sport Wales without knowing it was all for the awards night.

"I couldn't be happier. Going to the World Youth Championships was the highlight of the year because it was my first GB vest and hopefully there are more to come."

Nicoll follows in the footsteps of the likes of Real Madrid superstar Gareth Bale, who won the Young Sportsman of the Year award in 2006.

She added: "With the likes of Gareth Bale having won this award before it really inspires me to think I can go much further if I really want it.

"I want to follow in the footsteps of my training partner Brett Morse, he went to Olympics at such a young age."

Keith now combines caring for his wife and looking after their small holding with his responsibility as the RYA (Royal Yachting Association) Sailability Coordinator for Wales, a role which sees him helping other sailing clubs across the country to increase the opportunities that they are able to offer for disabled people.

Flag day as Llanymynech win GolfMark award

Pictured with their GolfMark award are (from left) current junior captain Lloyd Roberts, junior organisers Charlie Jones, Sue Kime and Rob McGill, with captain elect for 2014, Harry Edwards

LLANYMYNECH golf club had good reason to celebrate after receiving a prestigious national award.

The club has scored an ace after being awarded the GolfMark High Achiever Award, by the sport's governing body English Golf, in recognition of its junior and beginner friendly promotion, support and facilities.

Club junior organiser Charlie Jones said: "We are delighted to gain this esteemed accolade following ongoing and successful scrutiny of our coaching, playing and club facilities, together with displaying our commitment to child protection and duty of care.

"Other criteria include the creation of a fun, enjoyable and welcoming atmosphere, together with the provision of access to appropriate coaching and competition for different levels of players.

"We at Llanymynech believe that the game of golf promotes respect, honesty, discipline, integrity and motivation to youngsters, while at the same time giving them added life skills, which makes this award all the more rewarding."

Club secretary, Howard Jones, added: "Who knows how far the youngsters could possibly progress in the game with our support, as legendary Welsh golfer and local hero Ian Woosnam played here as a junior!"

Town face battle with leaders at Park Hall

HAVING lost pole position in the Mercian Regional League division one, FC Oswestry Town face a crunch top of the table showdown with new leaders Bishop's Castle on Saturday.

Without a game for the past two weeks, Town have found themselves overtaken by Castle who moved three points clear with last Saturday's 11-0 romp at Shrewsbury United.

The emphatic victory also gave Castle a superior goal difference, so Oswestry will be anxious to take the spoils in this weekend's clash at the Venue Park Hall as they battle to reclaim top spot.

After slumping 5-0 at Oakengates Rangers, Oswestry Villa host rock bottom Hopesgate.

Villa's second string remain ninth in division two after their goalless deadlock at Spalaig Britannia. This Saturday they travel to Donnington Community.

Ladies finish year in style

RESURGENT Oswestry Ladies stretched their unbeaten run to four games in the Cheshire Womens Hockey League division two with an exciting 4-3 victory at Warrington Ladies.

Tracey Royle scored twice in the first half which finished 2-2, and Kate Roberts and Sandra Jones then made it 4-2 after the break before the hosts pulled one back.

It was a fine way to finish the first half of the season, with Oswestry's next action away to Golborne Ladies on Saturday, January 11.

Rovers face Crosses test

AFTER being left kicking their heels last weekend, Waterloo Rovers bid to keep up the pressure on the Spar Mid Wales League division one leaders in Saturday's tricky trip to Four Crosses.

Welshpool Town bid to bounce back from their 2-1 loss at Tywyn when they host Llansantffraid Village.

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